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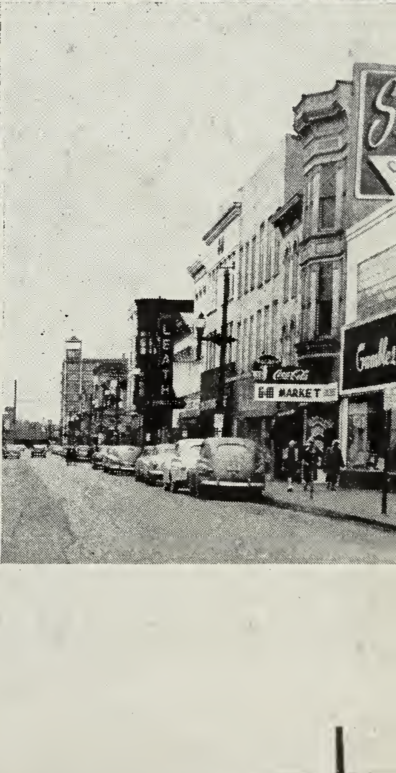
Camera Studies

OF
FREEPORT
ILLINOIS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WESTVIEW HOMES
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
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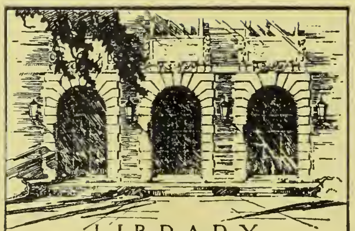

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Ill. Hist. Survey

Camera Studies

of Freeport, Illinois

COLLABORATORS ON THIS BOOK

This picture shows one of the many conferences in Mr. Koenig's office. Robert F. Koenig, sponsor, compilator and editor, seated center above, believed that the beauty and history of Freeport should be preserved. Harry Herlin, standing, spent many interesting hours photographing various beauty spots and landmarks for future generations to see and enjoy. Ruth A. Winn prepared the copy for the printer, read proofs and took a deep personal interest in all phases of the publication. Howard B. Scholes, seated at the left, provided the technical advice, especially regarding layouts and details regarding the printing.

Gathering material for a book takes time, and of course considerable work, but it is one of the most fascinating of all undertakings.

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Camera Studies

of Freeport, Illinois

Parks, churches, schools,
Civic, cultural, fraternal
and
Eleemosynary institutions

Compiled, edited and sponsored
by Robert F. Koenig

Entire edition sold for $2.00 each by the Boy Scouts
and Girl Scouts. All proceeds go to the
treasuries of the U. S. Grant
Council, Boy Scouts of America, and
the Jane Addams Council of Girl Scouts

This book has been printed privately.
No tax money has been used in its
production.

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Freeport, Illinois

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Printed in Freeport, Illinois
by Wagner Printing Company

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DEDICATION

This volume
is sincerely dedicated to
the men and women
of Freeport and Stephenson County
who have faithfully served
on our boards in the management of our county,
city, parks, churches, schools, eleemosynary,
cultural and fraternal institutions

PREFACE

THE PUBLIC showed so much enthusiasm for the book "Public Parks of Freeport, Illinois," that I was encouraged to sponsor another book about places of beauty and interest in Freeport.

The idea for this book came to me in a roundabout way. In the fall of 1951, I saw on display in the Chicago Public Library a great many pictures of the public parks of Chicago. It seemed to me that we had parks as interesting, and perhaps even more beautiful.

When I came home, I commissioned Harry Herlin, well-known Freeport photographer, to make some special camera studies of Freeport parks through the four seasons. It was my idea to exhibit these studies in our Public Library. Mr. Herlin did the studies carefully and painstakingly, always watching for the unusual in angle and lighting.

Early in the fall of 1952, 25 finished photographic enlargements were ready, and I presented them at both library and park board meetings. All of the members were enthusiastic. The library board readily agreed to display them in the Public Library for some weeks, during which time photographs of winter scenes in the parks were added. From the Public Library they were transferred to the Junior High School for exhibition to students and to the adult education classes, and later they were taken to the Stephenson County Historical Society Museum for its spring exhibit.

While my original plan had been simply to exhibit the pictures, I thought they now deserved a wider distribution and a more permanent place, and decided to publish them.

Since the 35 or 40 pictures in the original collection would not make a book, it seemed natural to supplement the park pictures with similar camera studies of our public schools, especially since we have three new and very modern school buildings.

Then I decided we should add camera studies of our eleemosynary institutions – our hospitals, children's homes, YMCA, YWCA – and institutions which supplement the cultural life of our city, such as our churches, our library, the Winneshiek Theatre and the Stephenson County Historical Museum. To give a well-rounded book of interest to children as well as adults, our public buildings were added.

To accompany each picture, well-known citizens were asked to write a condensed, informative description. Each description has been given a full page opposite the accompanying picture.

The entire edition of the Freeport Park Book sponsored by me in 1948 was presented to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of this area. They sold the books and kept all the proceeds of the sales for their treasuries.

Similarly, the entire edition of this book has been presented to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. Again they will receive the entire proceeds from sales for their treasuries.

It is hoped that the attractiveness of this volume will appeal to all citizens so that they will buy copies for their own libraries and as gifts to friends, and especially former citizens of Freeport. All the photographs in this book are new and have never been used in any other publication.

Robert H Koenig

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INTRODUCTION

HERE IS a book that is unique, as Freeport's parks are unique. Perhaps those of us who came to Freeport as adults appreciate our parks more than those who grew up with the parks. We know how few cities the size of Freeport (or for that matter, how few cities of any size) can boast such prodigal wealth of trees and drives, such beauty the year around.

The photographer's camera studies have caught for us the "family" feeling of our parks in the mother duck and her little ones, or the stack of cordwood piled against the wall. He shows us, too, how a sensitive eye can see the beauties of our parks in all seasons — as in the branches outlined by autumn sun and winter haze. He gives us in this book a pleasant lesson in how to see our parks — the charm of a close look as well as the breath-taking panorama.

This book, however, does not end with the parks. It gives us the schools, some of which are adding to Freeport's fame throughout the nation. It shows our many beautiful churches. It reminds us, by the many cultural and charitable institutions of Freeport, how public-spirited we are.

This community has a real debt to Mr. and Mrs. Koenig for their foresight in seeing what a book of this kind could be; and for their generosity in giving the entire edition to the Scouts.

Those who buy this book from their favorite Boy or Girl Scout help the youth of our community. More than that, they help themselves; and if they buy for a friend, make themselves thrice blessed!

Many of the pictures are the very ones a former Freeporter would carry in his fondest memories. Others bring him up to date on what must be his favorite city. Think how every former Freeporter would enjoy a copy.

Those who continue to live here will get increasing joy from these pictures, which preserve so well the fleeting moments of our lives.

The book is a perfect gift for shut-ins who can no longer go freely to the parks and enjoy them; to whom the new schools are just a name; who perhaps see their church only in memory.

In short, here is a book for all Freeporters; for all former Freeporters; for all those who have ever lived in or near our town.

Howard Scholes

Camera Studies

of Freeport, Illinois

CHAPTER 1

CAMERA STUDIES IN FREEPORT PARKS

> To him who in the love of Nature holds
> Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
> A various language.
>
> Bryant — THANATOPSIS

Harp of the Winds
Read Park

READ PARK, created in 1923 by land gifts, has grown to a site of varied beauty and purpose. Its trees and foliage; what a constant stimulant!

To the garden shows, to the weary eye of the homeward driver, to the young idealist, to the passing elder inspired again by whispering leaves.

The oak, the birch, the willow, and the flowering fruit. They're scattered everywhere, like smiles. By the pool, along the road, and in the groves. The Almighty breath caresses them and His sun dances. And the trees give back music with their branches like the strings of a harp. They shelter; their fragrance fills the air. Feet strong on the earth, like travelers, the trees reach ever up.

When long last their strings break, kind hands who have heard their songs will replenish them. They will give beauty and shelter again, like the park, to a new generation.

Anna Belle Koenig Nimmo

Homemaker

Harp of the Winds, Read Park

Scenic Walk
Krape Park

HERE ON A SUMMER NIGHT the universal spirit gently stirs. Time is truly boundless here. Nature in its kindest mood — the soft whispering breeze, the recurring miracle of resurrected life, the impenetrable mystery of the mortal mind — haunts the deepening shade beneath the softly glowing stars. The past lingers here, reluctant to share a final parting, and the future hovers. Thought and feeling pervade the air and in the quiet dusk undertones of longing and a conviction of endless life throb beneath the surface of our sense.

Here the soul of the town finds peace and love, repose in the shifting scene, for here the eternal looks through.

Arthur Sheriff

Head Master, The Cheshire Academy
Cheshire, Connecticut

Scenic Walk, Krape Park

Plantings
Read Park

TURNING from the crowded highway, we enter Read Park to enjoy the quiet of trees and flowers, and vistas of vivid turf.

Moist green, patterned with shade, stretches away to blue spruces, to pyramidal cedars, and to the more yellow but less dense larches. Earth colors are repeated in the trunks of maples, and the white of piled clouds in the branches of birches.

Pausing near a flower bed, we say "Hello" to old friends: blue ageratum, white petunias, lavender asters, stately rose cannas. They play twin symphonies of color and fragrance.

Whether leaf and bloom wear the flush of dawn, the gold of noon, the opalescence of sunset, or the cobalt and silver of a moonlit night, they speak to us of serenity, of universal beauty, and of the timelessness of the real. Then we can return, refreshed, to the hustle of the workaday world.

Beulah Jackson Thornley

English Teacher
Freeport High School

Plantings, Read Park

Lincoln-Douglas Monument

THE BOULDER commemorates Freeport's greatest political event, the Lincoln-Douglas Debate which took place August 27, 1858. It was dedicated in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

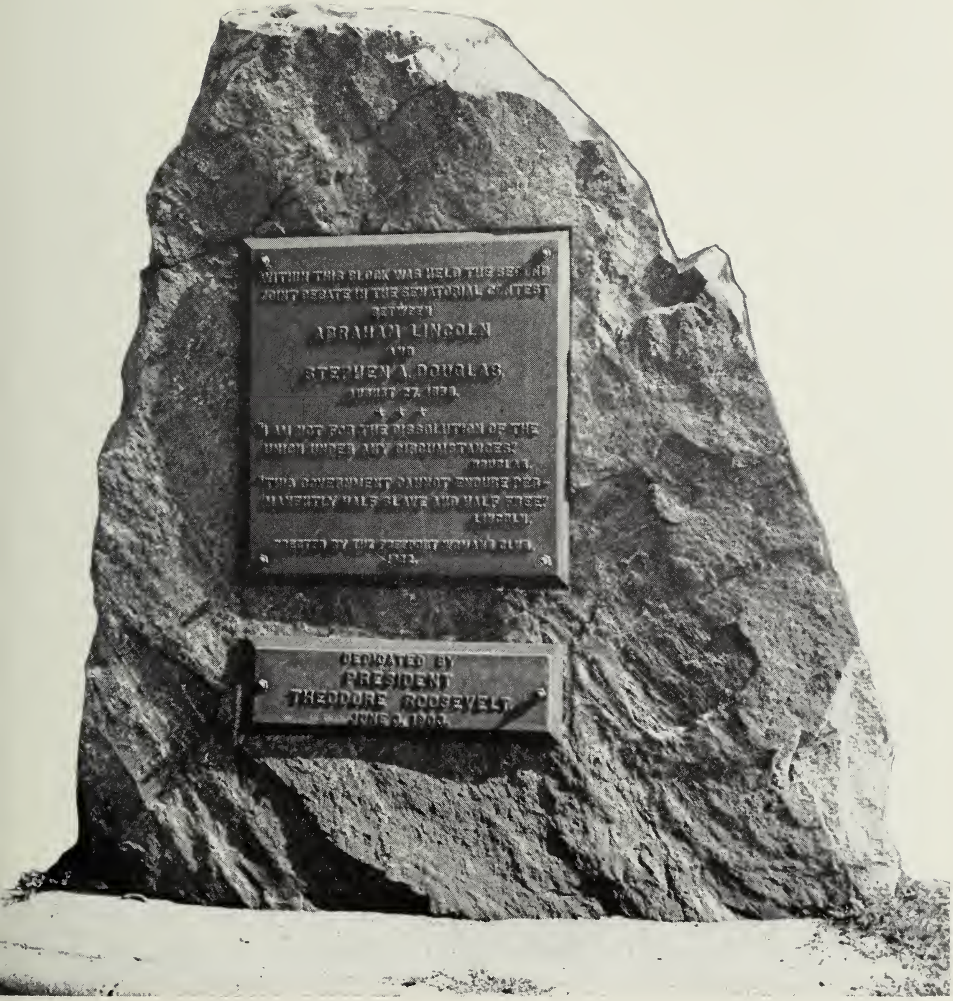
The Freeport Woman's Club placed the boulder, which they brought from Wisconsin, as nearly as possible on the spot where the debaters stood. At that time there were many living who had been present at the debate.

The "grove" where the people crowded to hear the debate has vanished. An interested group attempted in 1951 to buy the land, which was then available, and make a public park out of the spot where the debate had been held. Unfortunately they were not successful.

It is to be hoped that some day there may be a suitable setting for this reminder of a great moment in the history of the United States.

Bertha Bidwell Rosenstiel

Homemaker


WITHIN THIS BLOCK WAS HELD THE SECOND
JOINT DEBATE IN THE SENATORIAL CONTEST
BETWEEN
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
AND
STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS,
AUGUST 27, 1858.
"I AM NOT FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE
UNION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES."
DOUGLAS.
"THIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT ENDURE PER-
MANENTLY HALF SLAVE AND HALF FREE."
LINCOLN.
DEDICATED BY
PRESIDENT
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
JUNE 3, 1903.

Lincoln-Douglas Monument

Read Park Pavilion

THE READ PARK PAVILION, a community asset, is also an extremely successful architectural experiment.

In Aztec style, it appears to be made of native timber and stone, admirably fitting its beautiful setting. Actually, above the high trim of Eleroy stone, it is concrete, stained brown, cunningly supplied with saw marks, knotholes and even worm holes.

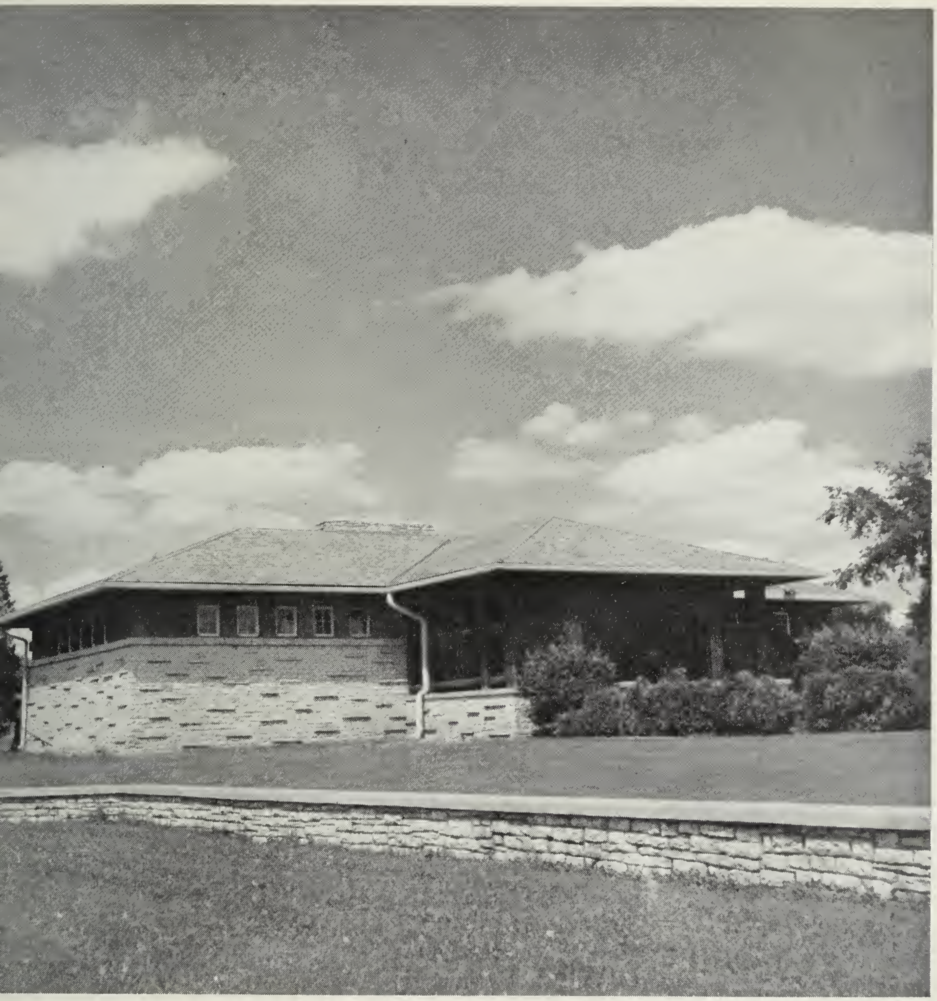
The pavilion is one of the few projects in Stephenson County built with WPA aid. Thanks also to a gift from F. A. Read, park benefactor, it was constructed in 1938 at a cost of $56,248, without use of local tax funds.

It is 28 by 68 feet, insulated and oil heated, its main floor one big social hall with handsome stone fireplace and knotty pine walls. The basement has other meeting rooms, rest rooms and kitchen.

The heavy oak pillars of the south porch were for 85 years supporting columns in Freeport's famous hotel, the old Brewster House.

Elizabeth Yager

Freeport Journal-Standard Staff Writer



Read Park Pavilion

Tulips
Taylor Park

TULIPS are among the first gay blooms to greet us in the spring. There are masses of them used in just the right places so they do not destroy the natural beauties of our parks. These large groupings flaunt their brilliant color in all directions, and many are the "Oh's" and "Ah's" heard from the passers-by.

Our Rockford friend L. Young Correthers gave us a verse on "Tulips"—

"I like Major Tulip,
He seems to say to me
I'm stationed here on dress parade—
As smart as smart can be.
My uniform is beautiful—
I know what I am doing—
I'm here to guard the garden plot
If there is trouble brewing.
Please leave me to my business
Which is to toe the line,
And if you'll tend to your affairs—
Why, I will tend to mine."

Artist

Tulips, Taylor Park

Knowlton Park

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK occupies the block between Broadway and Pleasant, Locust and Blackhawk. It was a gift of Dexter A. Knowlton to the town on May 26, 1859.

Mr. Knowlton, proprietor of a general store at Locust and Pleasant, wanted to see the business section expanded in this area. He was also instrumental in building Broadway from the Chicago-Galena stage coach route to Locust Avenue. He hoped the coaches would bring trade to his store, but subsequent location of the railroad by the river caused the area to develop for residential use.

Knowlton Park, shaded by numerous trees planted by its donor, decorates the neighborhood and is a place where adults relax and children play. Such an attractive spot is a fitting memorial to Dexter A. Knowlton, one of Freeport's pioneer citizens, whose descendants erected a monument on the grounds in 1939, honoring his arrival in Freeport one hundred years earlier.

R. Edward T. Beckmire
Attorney

Knowlton Park

Morgan Memorial
Read Park

TWO ELVES emerge from a pine-grove nook, pausing beside a woodland brook that cascades behind them like rainbow spray.

Frolicking water over the stones at their feet knows by the sign of cat-tail wand their latest retreat.

Laughs the elfin lad in roguish glee, "Sir Frog will bear us company."

With sunlit, dancing eyes, the little maid replies, "I'll race you to the pollywog pool to play tadpole tag 'mongst the lily-pads. Old Friend Frog may join us too."

Someone there was who loved these elves—sculptoring them in bronze for all to see:

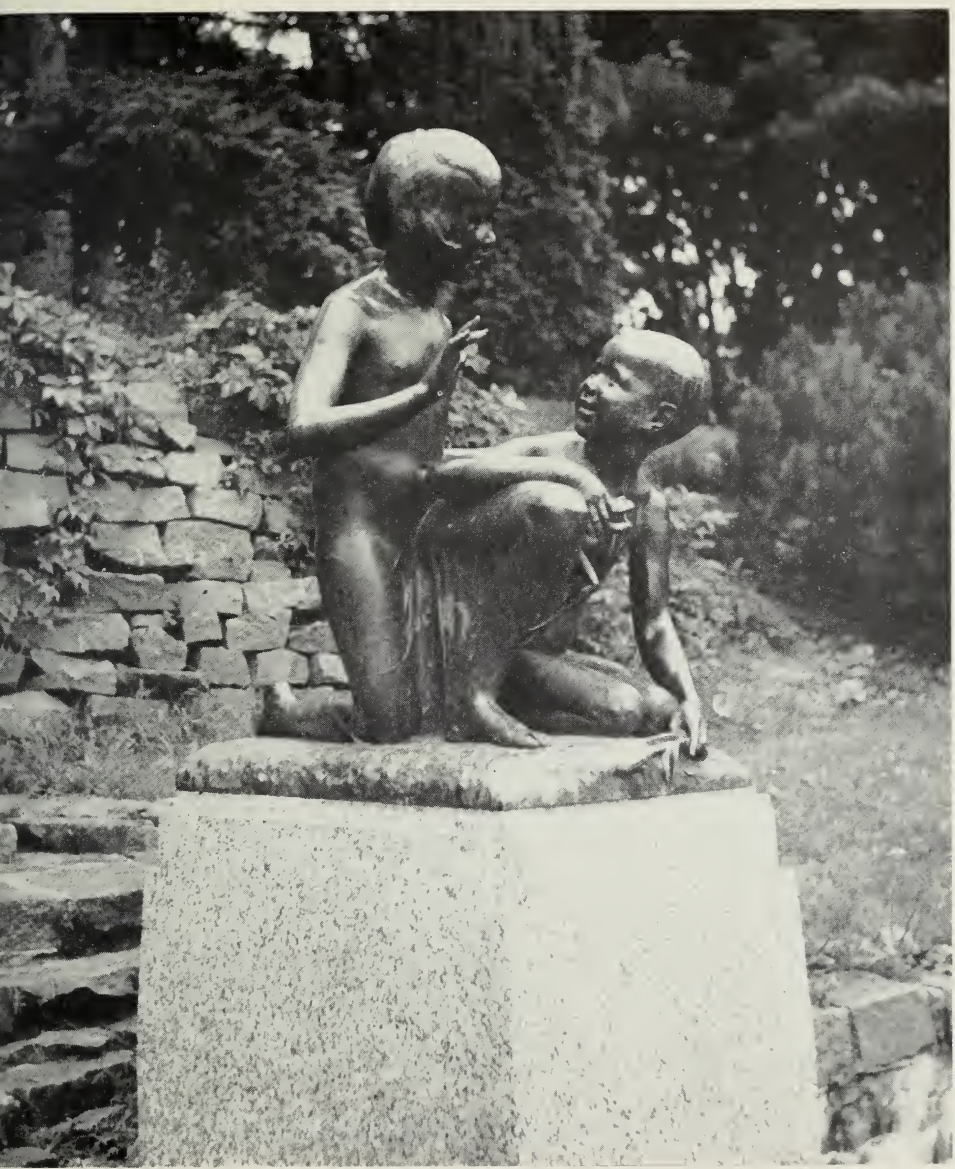
> Their autumn reflection in the lagoon beside the rose-hued, cork-bark bush;
> Winter pine trees tossing snowflakes on their heads;
> Soft breezes singing through birch trees, their spring harbingers;
> The elves' best love, summertime, when children fill Read Park with laughter.

Someone there was who loved children—for earth is like unto Heaven when children are near.

Lover of children—Mrs. Antoinette Morgan, mother of Mrs. B. C. Trueblood and the late Mrs. Edward Winslow. Sculptor of Morgan Memorial—Emory P. Seidel.

Carolyn Musser

English Teacher, Freeport High School



Morgan Memorial, Read Park

Entrance to Shelter House
Krape Park

WHO KNOWS the countless pairs of feet that have trod the cinder paths leading to the shelter house on Flagstaff Hill? The rustic architecture of the building lends itself well to its surroundings, and the entrance forms an ideal frame for the eye-catching view beyond.

Looking in a southerly direction from the shelter, one sees the slope leading down to the majestic trees. Beyond and below lie Yellow Creek and the winding road, traveling along side by side for a short distance before drawing apart.

Using the entrance as an exit, a turn to the left upon leaving will lead to the cliff from whence Krape Park's waterfall flows.

The beauty seen everywhere in Krape Park is evident about the shelter house, and those who love beauty in any form will readily agree that this displays the touch of a Master's hand.

Loretta W. Graf

Business Secretary

Entrance to Shelter House, Krape Park

Read Park Entrance

COLD GRANITE gains a warmth when it becomes identified with a life—a life of accomplishment and success.

That life is over, the man is dead, but his memory is preserved in deathless granite and his name is given to lovely Read Park.

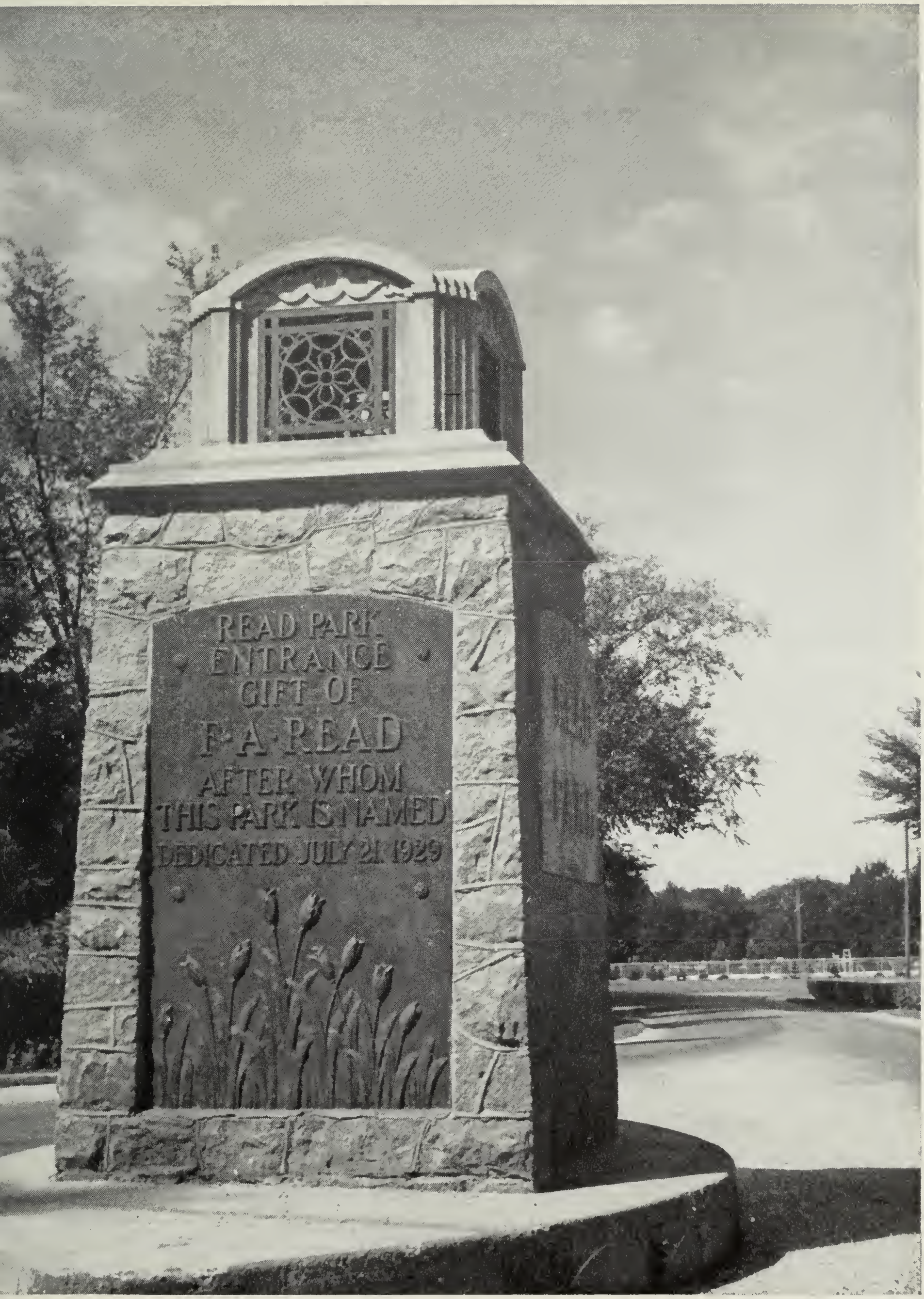
Much pleasure and beauty have been derived from the gift that F. A. Read gave to his community. Because of it, his name is destined to be long remembered.

The red granite pillar which stands in the center of the gateway bears a bronze plaque paying homage to the park donor. Six other granite pillars, topped with stone, complete the artistic gateway. The winding road beyond invites the nature lover and the leisurely traveler to enter here.

Tulips, known for their splendour, have also been engraved on the plaque. They are a hint of the splendour to be found within the park.

Shirley Bergmann O'Connor

Former Society Editor
Freeport Journal-Standard


READ PARK
ENTRANCE
GIFT OF
F·A·READ
AFTER WHOM
THIS PARK IS NAMED
DEDICATED JULY 21 1929

Read Park Entrance

"Lincoln the Debater"
Taylor Park

ABRAHAM LINCOLN came to Freeport as a debater against Stephen A. Douglas, August 27, 1858. Here, in their second debate, Lincoln asked Douglas which was more binding, popular sovereignty or a recent decision of the Supreme Court against it. Douglas chose popular sovereignty: that a territory had the right to govern itself with or without slavery.

This Freeport Doctrine, as it is known in history, won Douglas the senatorial seat for which he and Lincoln debated seven times before Illinois voters. Douglas' answer split the Democratic party, however, and enabled Lincoln to win the presidency in 1860.

Our statue of "Lincoln the Debater," designed by Leonard Crunelle of Chicago, was presented to Freeport by W. T. Rawleigh at the seventy-first anniversary of this debate, August 27, 1929. In beautiful Taylor Park among a grove of trees even as on that earlier day, Abraham Lincoln still stands in Freeport.

Joyce W. Baltzer

Teacher, Dakotah School

"Lincoln the Debater," Taylor Park

The Lagoon
Krape Park

ONE of the first things the visitor to Krape Park notices as he crosses the bridge into the park proper is the tree-bordered lagoon on his left. Particularly is this true if he has children with him, for their sharp eyes would not let him miss it even if he cared to do so.

One is impressed with the care that has been taken for the comfort of the birds. The stout wire fence which surrounds the place attests to the interest taken in the children who daily visit this fascinating spot and otherwise might be trying to swim with the ducks.

A view of the entire lagoon can be had from the rustic bridge which overlooks the several partitions separating the different species. Each has its island, which seems to be a popular spot for sunning. The one where the baby ducks perform their astonishing antics is always the most popular.

Helen G. Harlan

Homemaker

The Lagoon, Krape Park

Totem Pole
Krape Park

THIS INTERESTING LANDMARK was carved by Wha-kadim (William Shelton), a chief of the Snohomish Indians, and each figure on the pole symbolizes a special legendary story of those Indians.

A totem is not a figure carved in wood—such a figure is a mere symbol. Their symbolism is an interesting study.

Among the American Indians a totem is a guardian spirit, sometimes of an individual but more commonly of a family or tribe. But American Indians are not the only totem worshipers. Every primitive people, when they have reached an advanced stage of development, have had their totems.

The totem pole in Krape Park was presented to the Boy Scouts of the U. S. Grant Area by Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Koenig because of the Indian art and the rarity of totem poles in the East and Central West. Most of them are found in the Northwest and Alaska.

Neely

Plant Engineer

Totem Pole, Krape Park

Read Park from the Air

LO, THE BEAUTIES of God are well to behold!

Like a verdant oasis midst a populated area, encompassed with busy highways, framed with exquisite maples, we behold Read Park from the sky.

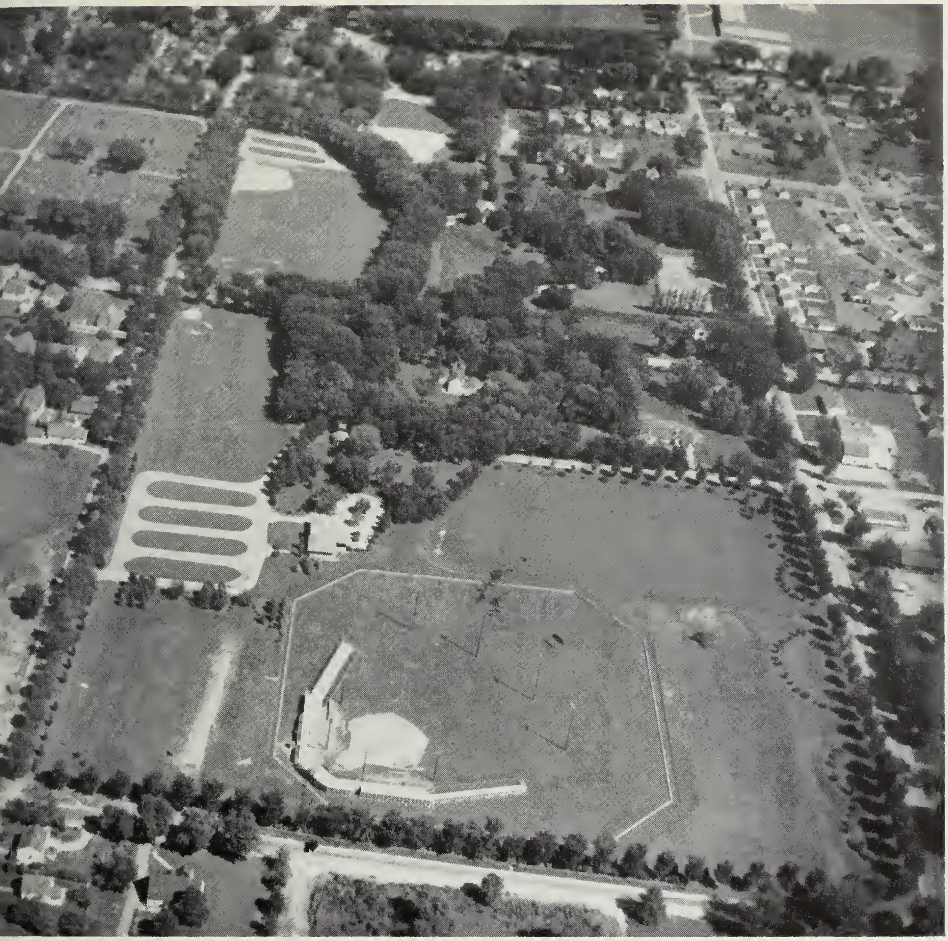
The mirrored pool, refreshing and relaxing to multitudes in the heat of summer; the patchwork of parking areas; the shuffleboard, croquet, badminton and tennis courts providing strength of body and alertness of mind; the series of softball diamonds for play in the radiant sun or beneath the brilliance of nighttime illumination, appear as a diminutive playground. Everywhere dwarfed figures enjoying the privileges afforded in Read Park.

An ever-changing picture as autumn glory turns the foliage to crimson and gold and then to a fairyland of snow and crystal.

This pattern and symmetry remind us of a huge formal garden, and its beauty as seen from above truly reflects the omnipotence of God.

Elmer F.

Insurance Executive



Read Park from the air

Twin Caves
Krape Park

DOWN BY the southern end of Krape Park, in the midst of woods where Yellow Creek laps its gentle way, is the set of two caves shown opposite, shelved over by slabs of native rock.

Here the geological giants have written their autographs. Down deep under the cliff lie these chambers. Here the animalculae of centuries divulge through nature's hieroglyphics the secrets of the past, for this work of nature is a trophy of a long lost age. Twins, in masonry of mystic union, they resulted from the destructive forces of the seasons. They have been this way for ages. The perfect interlocking of the masonry prevents collapse.

These caves are free from serpent life as well as poison weed.

There they are, adamant and resolute, the silent emblem of the omnipotence of God.

Jas. O'May

Retired Methodist Minister

Twin Caves, Krape Park

Swimming Pool
Read Park

THE SWIMMING POOL in Read Park was built in 1949 to replace an old one. It was designed by Mayo & Mayo, architects of Chicago, Illinois, to incorporate the most modern ideas of swimming pool construction.

It is fan-shaped, 120 ft. long and 120 ft. from wing tip to wing tip. It has 8,000 square feet of surface, designed to serve all ages and stages of swimming talent, from tiniest tots to expert swimmers and divers. Filtration machinery changes the water in the pool every six hours, so that swimming is done under healthful conditions.

In addition to swimming, sun bathing may be enjoyed on the deck surrounding the pool.

At the same time the new pool was built, the bath-house was remodeled and renovated. It now provides ample showers and dressing rooms.

Read Park pool is a boon to thousands of Freeport residents during the warm summer weather.

Ruth A. Kinne

Business Secretary

Swimming Pool, Read Park

Band Shell
Krape Park

THE KRAPE PARK band shell is a superb architectural ornament, set among native trees. Its great sweeping lines are made more dramatic by its shadows — bold and noble by day, soft and peaceful at night. Its excellent acoustics bring out rich tones, full volume. Permanent seats help us to relax under magnificent trees.

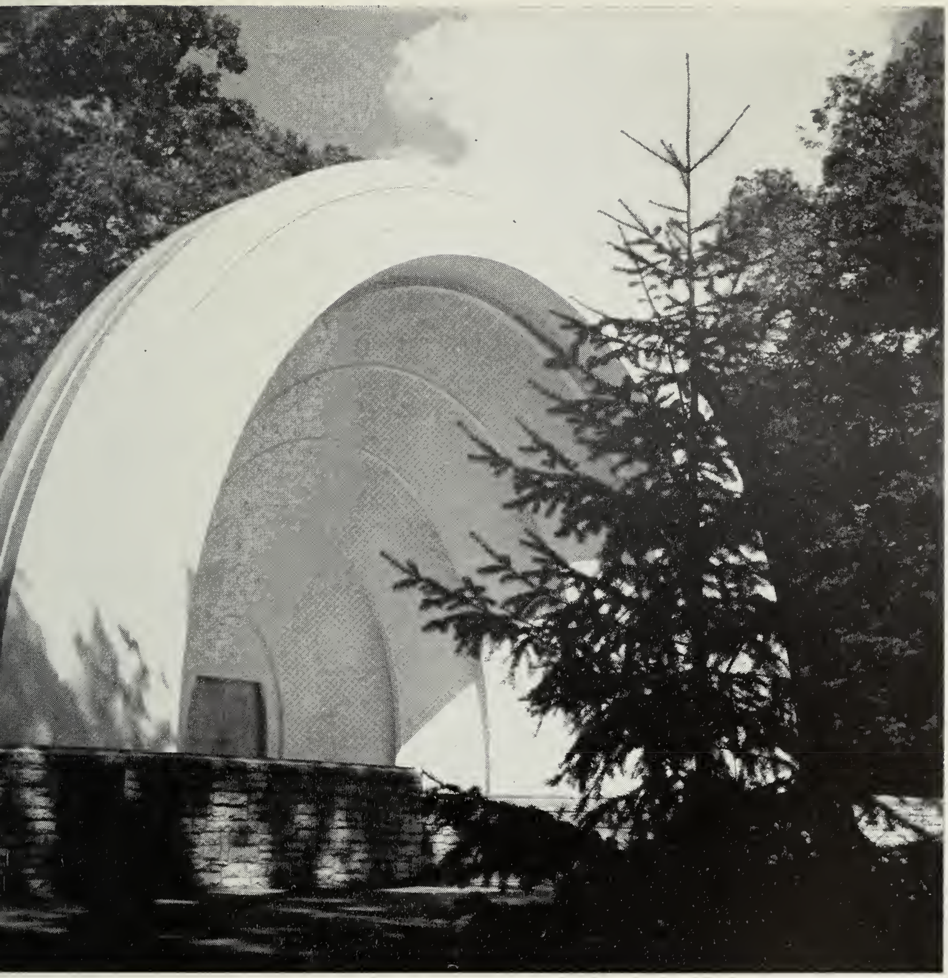
No wonder on band nights, crowds fill all seats and spill over the hillsides of our natural amphitheatre!

The band shell is built to last, of solid concrete; measures 41 by 63 feet, 48 feet high. Its stage is large enough for pageants and flooded by light from concealed fixtures. Dressing rooms and storage are under the stage.

Freeport folks like band music all the more because of this band shell, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Koenig as a memorial to Wilbur Thomas Rawleigh and to all Stephenson county men who died to defend our flag.

Theo. B. Dunkel.

Superintendent, Freeport Parks



Band Shell, Krape Park

Taylor Park

THIS RECREATIONAL CENTER, ensuing "one of the finest and best appointed driving parks in the United States," situs of two Illinois state fairs and numerous county fairs, scene of address by beloved "Teddy" Roosevelt, harborer of statue "Lincoln the Debater," culminated from purchase of the 80 acres July 5, 1911, by the park board for $43,500.

The will of J. B. Taylor, former owner, who died April 28, 1909, decreed that this area, along with other holdings, should be sold and profits divided between named eleemosynary institutions. Mr. Taylor, in 1873, purchased the 80-acre tract from Mrs. Dexter Knowlton, Sr., for $7,416.

August 1911, the park board sold the first bond issue for $75,000 which, with an Ordinance giving the commissioners the right to levy taxes for park purposes and with issuance of tax warrants in September, gave the board assurance of enough money to establish the park.

Taylor Park has an estimated value of $116,000.

J. A. Resh
Corporation Attorney

Taylor Park

Sports In Freeport Parks

YEAR-ROUND RECREATION in Freeport contributes much to the health and happiness of all ages.

Excellent facilities, wise planning of park boards, and the supervision of understanding recreational directors help keep bodies well and minds alert. True sportsmanship is emphasized, and people work and live better because they play together wholeheartedly.

Nearly 50 teams play softball before 85,000 spectators a year.

Tennis courts are in use practically all the time throughout the summer.

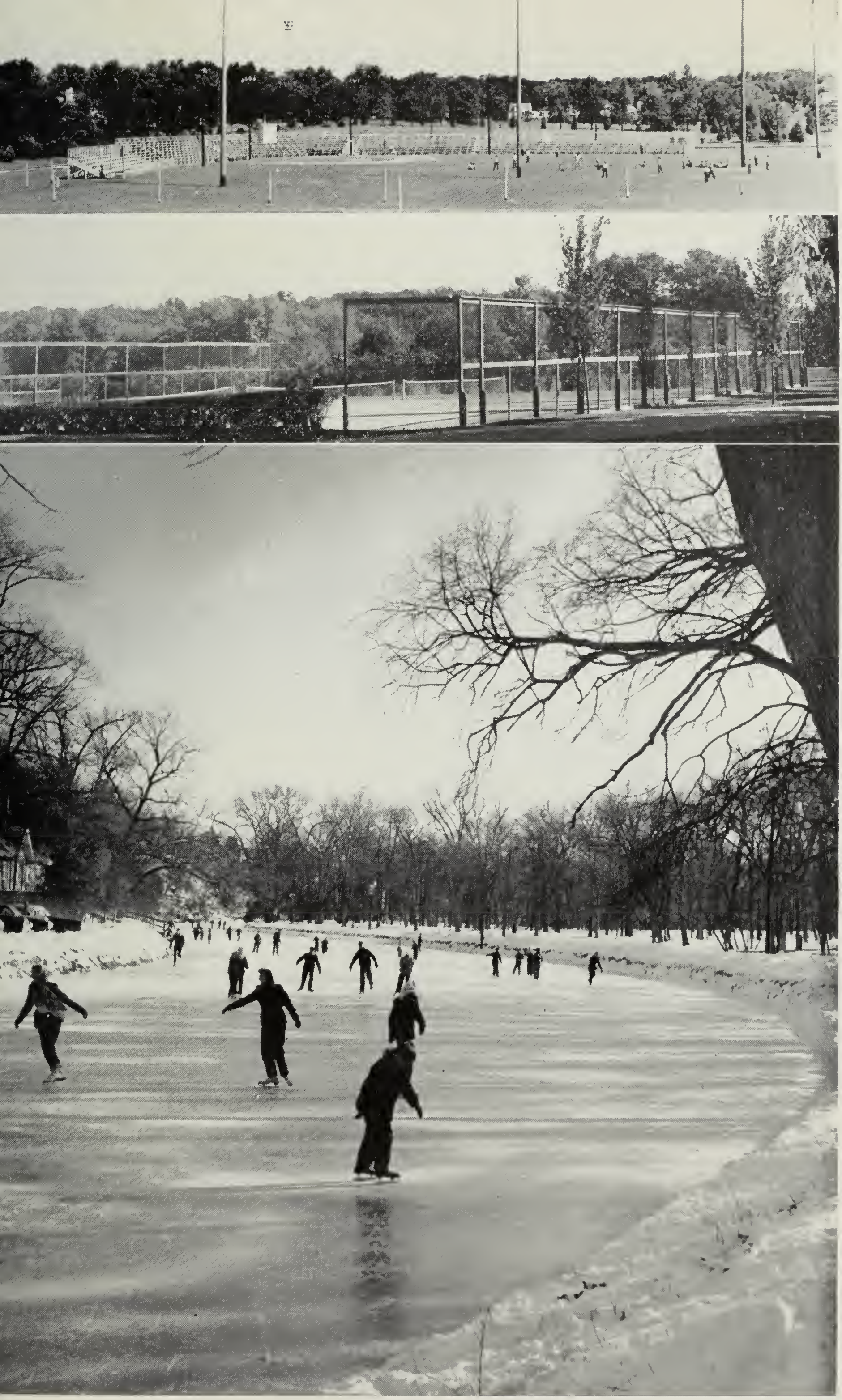
Great numbers of both children and grownups fill the swimming pool in Read Park, where lessons in swimming are given.

Hundreds of gayly costumed skaters enjoy skimming over the ice in Taylor and Krape Parks on bright winter days and moonlight evenings. The rolling grounds of Krape Park are right for skiing and there is a fine toboggan slide.

Playground equipment includes swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, seesaws, giant strides, and sand boxes, which keep children active and happy.

Mabel Goddard Kimber

Homemaker and Author



Sports in Freeport Parks

Avenue of Trees
Krape Park

A FITTING TRIBUTE to the beauty and pleasures just ahead. These stately sentinels at the south entrance to the park stand at polite attention, announcing to the passer-by that something special is in store for him.

They spread their green curtain each spring with a singleness of purpose — comfort and joy for man, by whose hand they stand in silent rows. Their dense shade affords welcome relief from the heat of the town and the open country roads.

Over the years theirs has been a pleasant duty. They have served man in his various moods — adding gladness to his gayer hours, inspiration to his darker musings. Leaf and zephyr murmur soothingly, "All's well. The world is yours."

At the end of the avenue we enter the park truly convinced that we move by and through Nature toward all that is good and beautiful.

Milton Babcock
Advertising Executive

Avenue of Trees, Krape Park

Bidwell Park

THIS SMALL PARK located on Lincoln Boulevard was given to Freeport in 1916 by heirs of the late Orlando B. Bidwell, one of Freeport's early outstanding citizens. It is a fitting memorial for Mr. Bidwell, who had great interest in outdoor activities.

The land originally was part of the Bidwell homestead dating from 1866. It extended from Stephenson to Empire Street. In earlier days this square was pasture. Later, when golf was new, the owners generously gave its use for any who desired to play.

Activities are for children of 12 and under. Attendance is increasing each year. Summer programs, under trained supervision, include many games and types of handwork.

The park provides a fine small shelter house, jungle bars, swings, sand boxes, slides; and until dark each summer day one sees children enjoying this neighborhood park.

Also the grade schools use this suitable spot for some of their athletic activities.

Katherine Todara

Teacher

Bidwell Park

Dam
Krape Park

THE ORIGINAL DAM at Krape Park was built by Dr. William W. Krape in 1899 on land which he owned. It was a wooden structure built with oak logs cut from trees along the creek. These logs were sixty to seventy feet in length with a diameter of ten to twelve inches. The building of the dam was facilitated by the extremely dry year. The creek bed was entirely dry and it was possible to pull the logs down the creek bed with horses.

Later, in the early 1900's, the dam was replaced by a concrete structure. Soon after the purchase of the Krape property by the park board (1913), extensive repairs were again made.

Today, as since the time the dam was built, the purpose of the dam is to provide an area for boating and canoeing. Most people in this area remember the fine times they have had on this stream.

Reuben A. Baumgartner

Head, Mathematics Department Freeport High School
and of Adult Education in Freeport

Dam, Krape Park

Playground
Read Park

SUMMER IS HERE! Magic words for hundreds of youngsters ready to enjoy themselves out of doors.

The laughter of carefree youth now echoes throughout the playgrounds of Read Park as they give vent to their energy for recreation in many ways.

Eager to make every hour one of happy living, they hurry to their favorite playground. The impact of ball on bat is a thrill, as they play to win.

This is but one of many forms of recreation in which adults also participate, made possible through facilities provided by the Freeport park system.

These playgrounds are a challenge to juvenile delinquency and help to solve the problem which confronts the idle hours of youth, by providing healthy and invigorating activities.

Creating these advantages in group association for the young is a step in forward thinking on the part of the park commissioners and the community.

Geo. Porter Smith

Retired Newspaper Writer

Playground, Read Park

Wilbur's Playground

NESTLED IN the northwestern part of Freeport, in a community considerable distance from the parks, is a small recreational center known as Wilbur's Playground.

The need for recreational facilities had long been recognized by the residents of that area. They envisioned a park or playground where their children might participate in wholesome games and sports in safe and favorable surroundings.

In 1948 this dream became a reality. Plans were formulated and a commitment obtained from the Freeport Park Board to equip a playground, provided a suitable site was purchased.

The problem was solved when W. T. Rawleigh purchased and donated a tract of approximately one acre, bounded by north Warren Avenue, west Elm Street and north Brewster Avenue. It is fitting that this area, for development of the character of young Americans, should be named Wilbur's Playground in memory of Mr. Rawleigh's son, who died serving his country during World War I.

Secretary-Treasurer
Freeport Securities Company

Wilbur's Playground

Silver Filigree
Read Park

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON were the first to get into print.

The Pines of Rome inspired song —
And some have chosen trees to be, more lovely than poetry.

The uses of trees are many for man—to make his home, to plow the earth, — the wheel to turn his mills, — for fire, — tools to build, — and ships to sail the seas.

And on the desert stand, as beacons of life for the camel caravan.

But how dear to our hearts, the tree that held us as a child, safe and high above the world where we dreamed —

Of the Cedars of Lebanon, The Pines of Rome, Desert

Caravans, and Viking ships at Sea.

A wonderful thing — a tree.

A silver filigree which fills our memories through the march of time eternal.

A living poem that draws us closer to the earth itself and our great Creator.

Jane Derrick

Interior Decorator

Silver Filigree, Read Park

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

Waterfall
Krape Park

NATURE MADE Krape Park, Freeport, Illinois, a thing of beauty. It has not the forbidding ruggedness of the mountain or the fierce monotony of the plain. It is of the kindly, friendly and inviting character, where the latchstring is always out. It is here that cares are laid aside, contentions forgotten. Peace, contentment and pleasure are the breath of life.

The beautiful waterfall in Krape Park is Man's contribution to this increasingly delightful situation. Its cascading spray tumbles from bench to bench in ever-increasing silvery bubbles. Under varicolored lights, its dance, like that of the nymphs, is beautiful. It must be seen to be appreciated.

J. R. Jackson

Secretary, The W. T. Rawleigh Company

Waterfall, Krape Park

Autumnal Road
Krape Park

AUTUMNAL LEAVES are singing in the forest,
Their swan song, soft and low:
To music sweet of gently falling raindrops,
As journeying down they go.

Autumnal leaves are whispering in the forest,
Remembering days of spring,
They don bright hues, turn green to crimson,
On wings their evanescent beauty fling.

Autumnal leaves lie dormant in the forest,
Protecting Mother Earth:
Sleeping, they dream never ending beauty,
Of trees, which gave them birth.

Autumnal leaves lie brilliant in the sunlight,
Along a winding road:
They parting, tell of fire refining beauty—
They heartfelt tales unfold.

"AUTUMNAL ROAD" a silent thing of beauty,
Portrays life's highway too:
Leads surely on to somewhere—
Each day a story new.

Mrs. A. J. Stukenberg

Homemaker

Autumnal Road, Krape Park

Wright-Purinton Park

PURINTON'S GREEN was given to the city of Freeport in 1849 and is the oldest park in the city. I recall my father telling about Mr. George Purinton and Mr. O. H. Wright giving this plot of ground to the city for a park. At that time the population of the 14-year-old town was 1020.

Years later all who lived around this square purchased a fountain and had it placed in the center of the park. Mr. Louie Bauscher planted beautiful gardens there and donated his services to their upkeep.

In recent years the park board has refenced this park and carries on a directed recreational program there for small and older children of that section of the city.

Most Freeporters speak of this as Third Ward Park. However, the park board has ruled that for matters of park reference the name shall be Wright-Purinton Park, in honor of its donors.

Mrs. Robert M. White

Homemaker

Editor's Note: Mrs. White is the daughter of the John W. Henneys, whose family home for many years was adjacent to this park and in whose honor the nearby school was named.

Wright-Purinton Park

From Whence They Came

THE JOY OF SPRING, the fulfillment of summer, and the glory of autumn are all infused in the brown and pungent leaves that blanket the ground. In their short life they have gladdened the eye, sheltered the birds, and given shade from the hot summer sun. Now their work is done and they have left their lofty homes to return from whence they came, to the welcoming arms of Mother Earth.

But even in such as these, life comes after death. All the goodness of the sun and rain that each brown and sere leaf holds will flow back into the earth and burst forth into new life, to gladden the hearts of men when spring comes round again.

Gertrude I. Stewart

Homemaker

From Whence They Came

Autumn Tranquillity

Krape Park

FEW AND FAR BETWEEN are the communities that can enjoy a park such as Krape Park.

Far from an ordinary city park of trees, some flowers, paths, perhaps a fountain, always a recreation spot or two, a pool and some concessions.

Krape Park is where Nature herself really beckons one on, not for just one or two of the four seasons, but for all four. The "Tranquillity of Autumn" perhaps more than others.

There so little has changed or had to be changed. From the heights of the cliffs and across that sparkling stream to the paths that lead hither and yon, to groves or open spaces, all lead to beauty at its best. Here, where man has had only to add a few necessities that time demanded, we find a jewel (truly a state park) set in the golden ring (the city itself).

There the calmness of nature has been left undisturbed.

Karl Kae Knecht

Cartoonist and Columnist
Evansville, Indiana, Courier

Autumn Tranquillity, Krape Park

October Sunlight
Krape Park

OCTOBER and the warm sun . . . falling leaves, cobwebs floating in the air . . . somehow worldly thoughts and problems seem so very insignificant.

To walk through the woods in October is to find a tonic not to be found in medical journals . . . It gives one a spiritual lift.

Pleasant thoughts of former Octobers . . . pleasant thoughts of Octobers yet to come . . . how grateful one should feel to be alive.

Harry Herlin

Photographer

October Sunlight, Krape Park

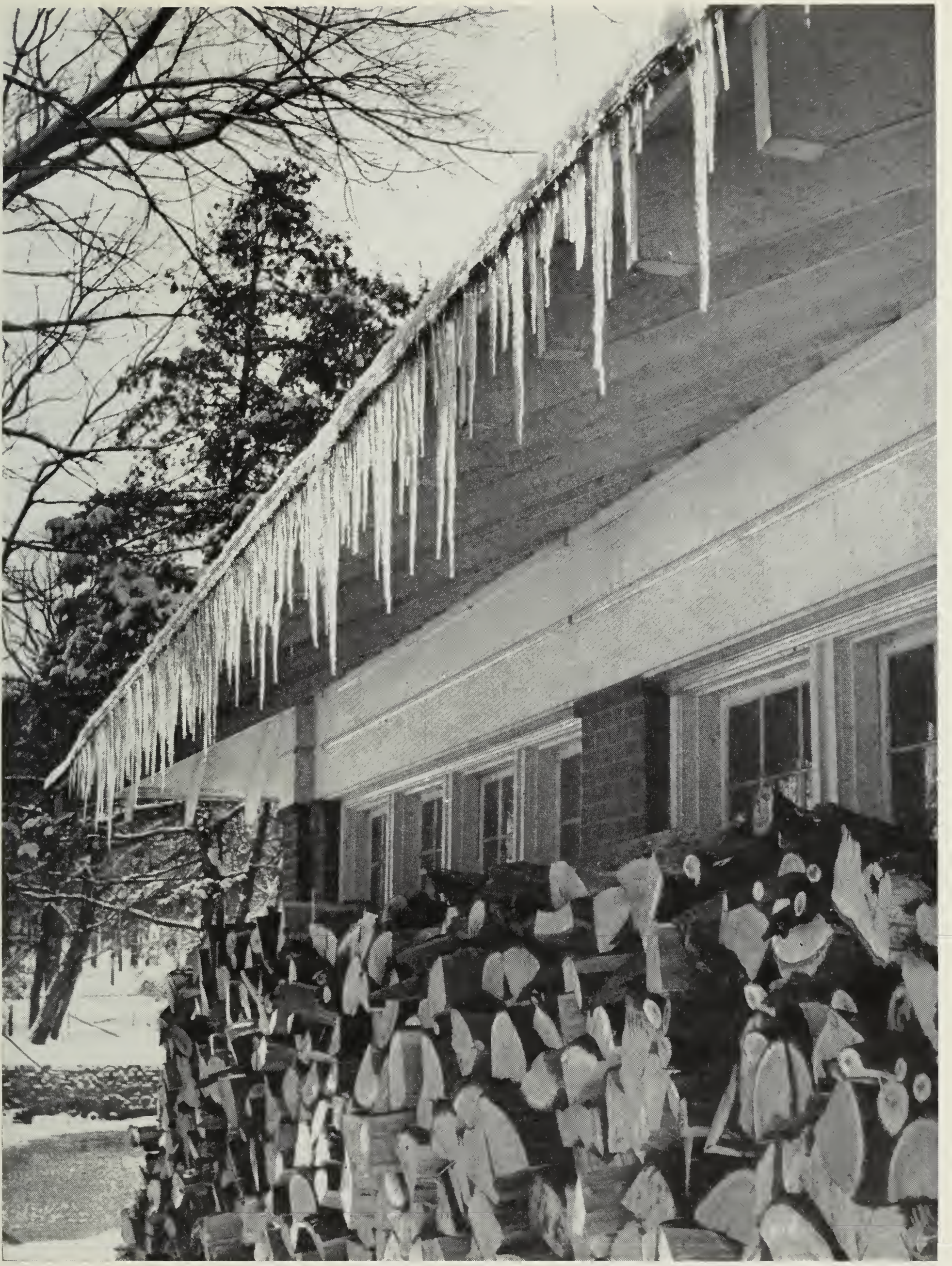
"If Winter Comes"
Krape Park

WINTER may close its fist;
Yet the felled sawn logs piled high—
Once the summer's stalwart shade—
Will build a wall of warmth against the chill.

For the cycle has come round:
Green leaf, brown log, red fire;
And just as winter snow may quicken thirsty roots,
So flaming log will quicken icy spirits
And friendship's cheer renew in its warm glow.

Dagmar Hansen

Head of English Department
Freeport High School



"If Winter Comes," Krape Park

Midnight Magic
Krape Park

WHEN ONE DRIVES through the Freeport parks and sees the beauty there enhanced, one need not wonder at the reason lovers find such a great attraction in the parks when darkness hides all of nature's marvels. The enchantment and radiance of this beauty find a way into the hearts of people even though the daylight has faded into night.

This picture of snow-covered Krape Park drive which goes up on the bluff and around by the bandstand was taken by two lovers in the darkened hours of a cold winter midnight, and with the use of artificial lights the wonders of God's creation are brought to view as magic out of the darkness.

DEXTER R. WITT
Tool Designer

Midnight Magic, Krape Park

Winter Stepping Stones
Krape Park

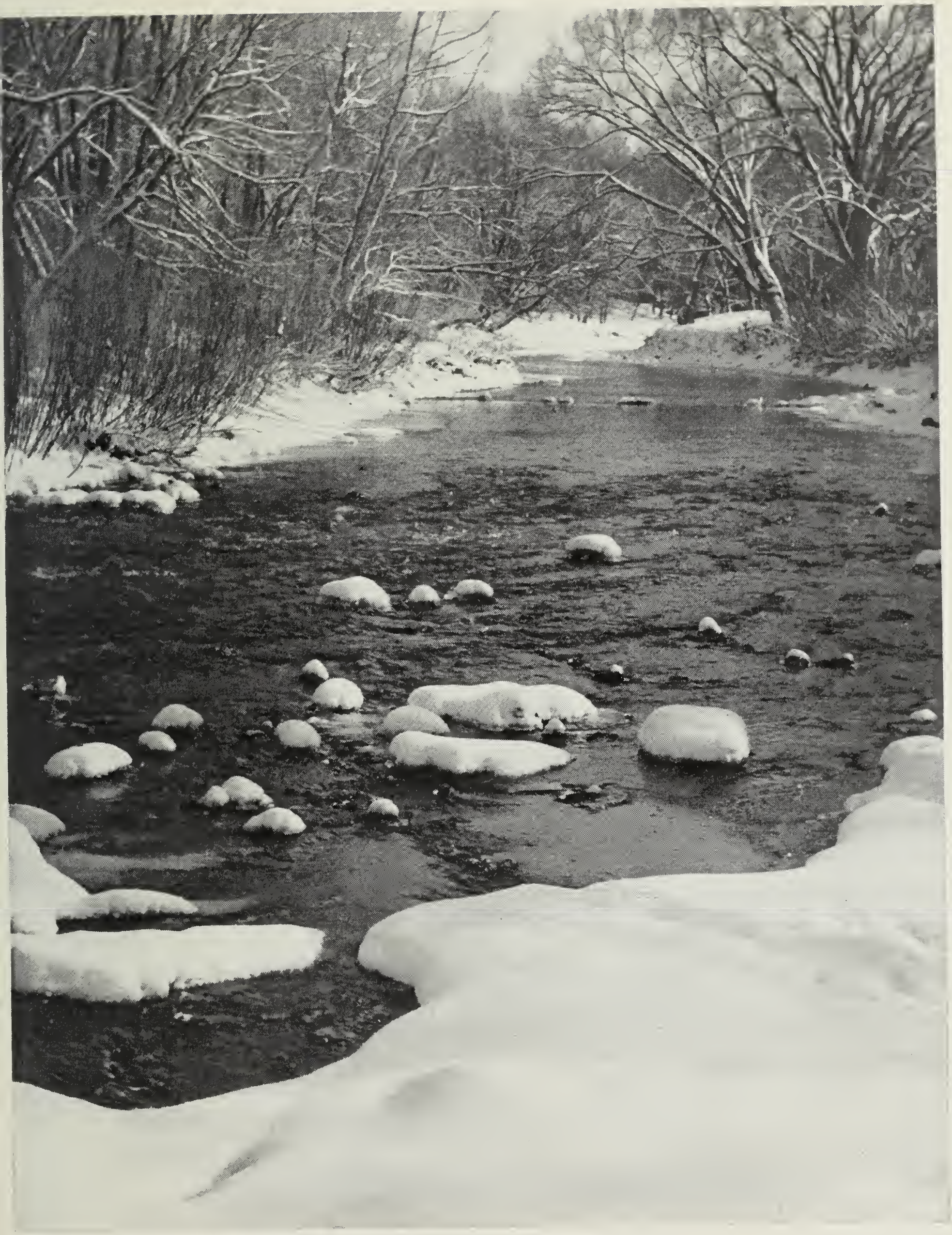
ACROSS YELLOW CREEK, in beautiful Krape Park, the fairies of spring have formed the frozen bits of winter's ice into picturesque stepping stones. Lightly they skip from shore to shore, laying the groundwork for the coming new season.

The fairies of winter have finished their work. They have made the park a glittering beauty spot. Over its sheltered frozen streams, skaters, young and old, glide smoothly to and fro in their colorful winter dress. The picture is one of happy, healthful beauty and the fairies are happy.

But now, under the light blanket of snow, the wild flowers are stirring with life. Soon the hills which slope to the water's edge will become a carpet of variegated color; the stepping stones will melt away; the stream will flow a little faster, a little fuller; and spring in all its beauty will come to Krape Park.

Irene M. Hardee

Homemaker



Winter Stepping Stones, Krape Park

"Bleak December"
Krape Park

KRAPE PARK, like its trees, is rooted deep in the soil of American ways and customs. It typifies thousands of parks dotting the American landscape which form a tiny colorful thread in the pattern of that which we call the American way of life. In that pattern are centered the welfare and happiness of the individual.

And so our parks have been established to make fuller in some respects the lives of those individuals who come to them seeking comfort, recreation, beauty, inspiration.

The oak tree in "Bleak December" is no shattered remnant in a country crushed by war and despair. Krape Park's oak tree proudly lifts its head in a community of people who have inherited and have fostered an appreciation of the democratic way of life.

May this sturdy oak which has given shade to man and shelter to birds be symbolic of the America which was founded as a refuge for the oppressed.

Marion Moss

Teacher of Social Studies
Freeport Junior High School

"Bleak December," Krape Park

Hidden Waters
Read Park

THIS IS THE creek in winter—this is the time of awakening — stand all alone by the water, — free yourself to its beauty — run your hand thru the snowbank — let the snow sift thru your fingers — feel its cold silence — so fragile — snow afraid of hot sunshine.

Look at the green of the water — olive green like a glass bottle — free to go on and on, over the rocks and the tree stumps, over the fallen trees, in and out of the bridges, — free to go on and on, like time with no backward turning.

Peer deep into the water, into the secret places, — there go the quiet fishes, the crabs and the dark green turtles.

Here all alone by the creekside, silence enfolds like a blanket, broken only by birdcalls, deep caws of crows in the forest.

This is the creek in winter—this is the time of awakening.

Stella M Perkins
Artist

Hidden Waters, Read Park

Circle Entrance
Krape Park

A LOVELY PARK in winter is a joy to behold. Such is the park pictured here. Its magnificent pines, their branches bending beneath the new-fallen snow, so glistening and white, need only the jingling of sleigh bells and the laughter of happy children to recall the Christmases of long ago.

Imagine, too, that same park in the spring, when warm sun and gentle rain have worked their magic in bursting buds and blooming flowers. Then, the picnic baskets appear, as children of a larger growth, with appetites quickened by a day in the open air, enjoy fried chicken and salad eggs.

Surely Freeport is blessed in its parks. The thanks of all should go out to the generous men who have made them possible. They have given unstintingly of their time and labor to develop a system of which the city may be proud, a true inspiration to the people of this community.

Katharine M. Porter

Retired Teacher

Circle Entrance, Krape Park

Snow Textures
Read Park

LIKE A QUEEN at her coronation, covering her regal robes with a simple white garment for prayer and consecration, Read Park retires under the snow; defoliate, but not dead, the cold winter magic preparing for spring and rebirth.

Not all the park sleeps with root and seed under the white blanket. Water runs and murmurs. Mice, squirrels and rabbits leave dainty tracks as they go about their hungry ways. Chickadees and jays break the silence with their robust chatter. Small tracks ending in a flurry of feather marks indicate to the reader of the snow another mouse tragedy – a good meal for the watchful owl.

Nor is the park the haunt only of photographers and nature lovers. Runners mark the snow. The shelter house glows with warmth and good fellowship. Read Park is a part of the life of Freeport in every season.

Mary X. Barrett

Homemaker

Snow Textures, Read Park

Shelter House
Krape Park

AN ALL SEASON rendezvous of good sport and fellowship, this shelter house hugs the bank of Yellow Creek in one of Freeport's loveliest natural settings. Fashioned of timbers and of stone quarried from Stephenson County, it blends into the wooded limestone bluffs of the countryside.

A recreation house for group picnics and family reunions in softer seasons, the shelter house plays host to friendly happy throngs. The terrace, with outdoor fireplaces and benches, overlooks the quiet creek with its load of boaters.

In winter it is a haven for skaters who dot the frozen stream in coats of scarlet, green and blue. With bright red cheeks they come trouping in for warmth and laughter.

This is the scene those who love Krape Park best in winter will remember: bright faced youngsters, happy adults, smell of wet wool, noise of skates on the ramp outside as more brave the cold to cut perfect figure eights.

William Pfender

Merchant

Shelter House, Krape Park

Crystal Wandering Waters

RESTLESS, never ceasing,
forming patterns ever new

Swirling waters onward rushing
underneath the skies of blue,

In winter and in summer, through all seasons
can be heard

The rippling melody of rhythm
to compete with singing bird.

No cold can still the cadence
through winter's bitter frost—

It's onward, ever onward without a moment lost.

On the rocks protruding
and on the shoreline too

Jack Frost adds wintry splendor
most beautiful to view.

The crystal wandering waters
sparkling in the sun

Reflect an added beauty, jewel-like, to everyone.

What secrets could you whisper
of romantic rendezvous

—Of spring or summer sweethearts
who wander two by two.

Along your wandering waters
where you speak to great and small

The wonders of God's beauty
which await outdoors for all.

Bertha L. Bergman

Retired School Teacher

Crystal Wandering Waters, Krape Park

Winter Trail
Krape Park

I WEND MY WAY through tall and stately trees,
I record the footsteps of men of many years ago,
I give to all lovers the romance of shadows and shafts of light,
I lead wanderers to open spaces and greater heights.

I offer love to every living thing, birds and bees seek my humble
place, the songs of liberty rise from all around me,
I am the symbol of untouched and enchanting beauty.

In the Springtime my verdant neighbors lift their heads from a
long and silent sleep,
In the Summertime I rest in awesome beauty,
In the Autumn I am decked in golden splendor,
In the Wintertime I am clothed in spotless white.

I am useful too – I give solid earth on which men tread,
I guide men through forest to cooling streams,
I bear silent witness – but speak,
I tell of great hopes, of holy desires, of great loves, of heavy
hearts.

Some would destroy me, but I refuse to remain destroyed – I
shall always leave behind me some recollections of the
past.
I am eternal – Nature and God and Man made me,
I bear witness of their glory.

John H. Nightingale

Former Pastor, First Methodist
Church, Freeport

Winter Trail, Krape Park

Winter Willows
Taylor Park

OH! WINTER WILLOWS seek your rest,
Before springtime urge stirs in your breast.

Rest beneath your blanket of snow,
While shadows deepen and chill winds blow.

Dream—dream of catkins, and verdure, too,
Cherished most when buds are few.

Then, once again when warm winds blow,
Awaken, and gladden the earth, Oh Winter Willow.

The lowly willow, too often unappreciated, in its humbleness seeks the sylvan stream and quiet waters, firmly establishing its roots in the moist earth. While not considered an "aristocrat" among trees, its graceful beauty earns for it an enviable place where landscaping is an art. Men of vision have transplanted the willow from its modest habitat to settings where it beautifies the scenery and delights the eye.

Many beautiful willows may be seen in our Freeport parks, and they are an inspiration to camera fans. The pleasing group of willows shown here was found in Taylor Park.

Agnes Loos Riordan

Homemaker

Winter Willows, Taylor Park

Winter Landscape
Krape Park

IN KRAPE PARK this is one of Freeport's beautiful winter scenes. Off the frozen roof of Yellow Creek snow blankets the ground. Winter's artist sprays the shrubs and trees with snow and ice. Midday sun reflects a million diamonds; the low-hanging quarter moon floats quietly from a cloud to spotlight ten thousand crystals. Echoes of skaters' youthful voices linger long through the frozen trees.

Strange, mystic, beautiful, a challenge to perceptive, sensitive minds.

Nature's challenge is great; greater is the human response from a potential love of the beautiful attuned to higher, finer things. To see, to think, to feel, enriching the emotions at higher levels, cultivating taste in art, music and literature.

There is life here.
"And winter slumbering in the open air wears on
his smiling face a dream of spring,"
"When proud April in all his trim has put a
spirit of youth in everything,"
Till "the woods of autumn put their glory on."

L A Fulwider

Retired Principal
Freeport High School

Winter Landscape, Krape Park

CHAPTER II

CAMERA STUDIES FREEPORT CHURCHES

Man's temples, visible expressions of his
veneration of deity, are high among
his noblest works of architecture.

-The Chicago Tribune

Assembly of God Church

509 West American Street

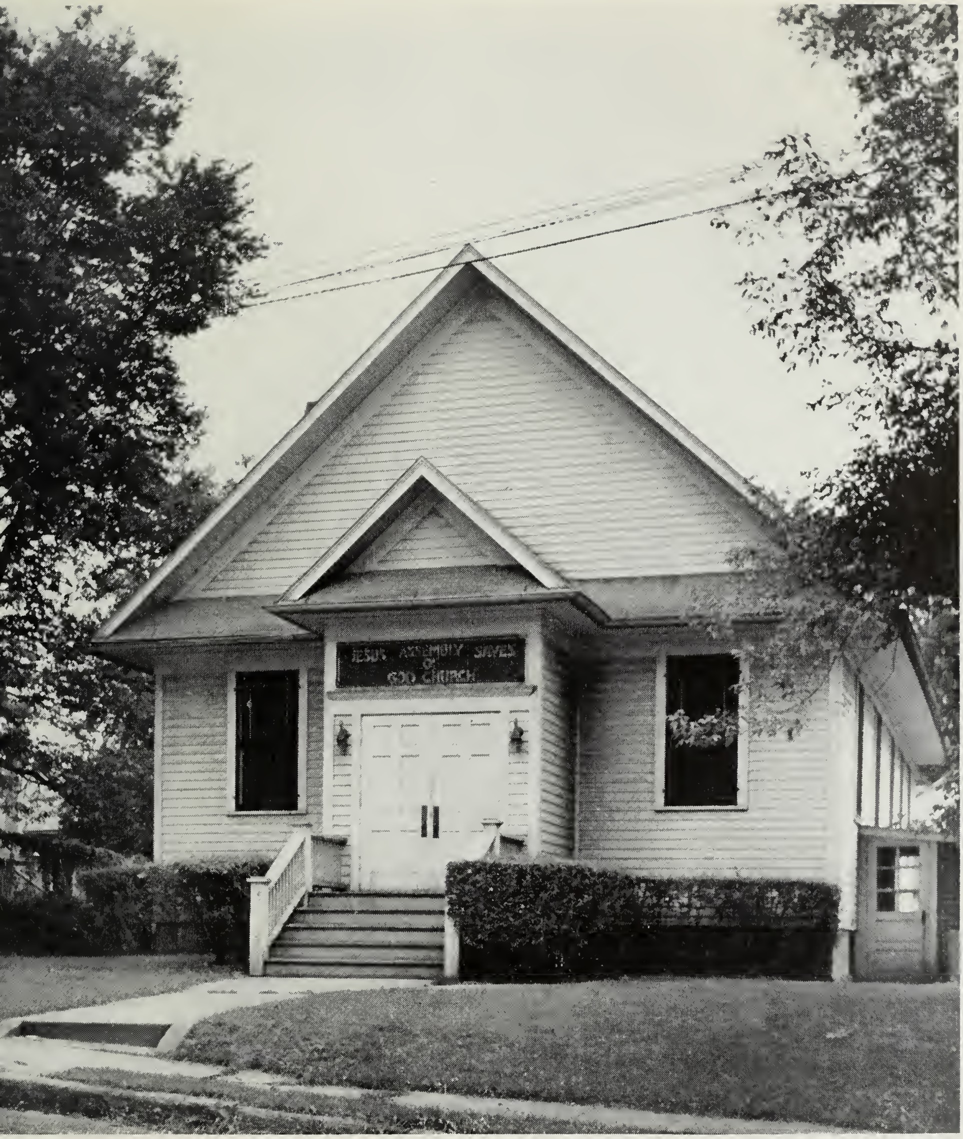
ORIGINALLY built in 1930 and maintained by an independent congregation, the church was first known as the Full Gospel Temple of God.

In 1931, the church was dedicated by the Reverend Earl Pottinger and received its charter as an independent work from the Assemblies of God.

Four years later, in 1935, the congregation voted to cease as an independent and become an affiliated church of the Assemblies of God. The church was set in order by the district superintendent of the State of Illinois that same year, and the name was changed to Assembly of God Church. The Reverend Samuel P. Bell was called as the first pastor.

Theodore Andrach

Pastor, Assembly of God Church


JESUS ASSEMBLY SAVES
OF
GOD CHURCH

Assembly of God Church

Church of the Brethren

South West Avenue and West Pleasant Street

IN 1905, the Yellow Creek congregation of the Church of the Brethren near Pearl City asked the district to open a mission at Freeport. Reverend and Mrs. Peter R. Keltner, who had similar assignments at Sterling and Rockford, were asked to come here to start this mission project.

In 1912, an abandoned frame meat market and lots were purchased from George Isaac. This building served as the first meeting place, with eighteen persons gathered to worship. The foundation of the present building, at the corner of South West Avenue and West Pleasant Street, pictured here, was started in 1913. January 1915 witnessed completion and dedication of this structure.

The Keltners served well, and in 1920 the church felt able to organize as an independent congregation. They called Reverend G. G. Canfield to serve as their first pastor. There were forty-four charter members.

James L. Minnich

Pastor, Church of the Brethren

Church of the Brethren

Church of God

103 North Adelbert Avenue

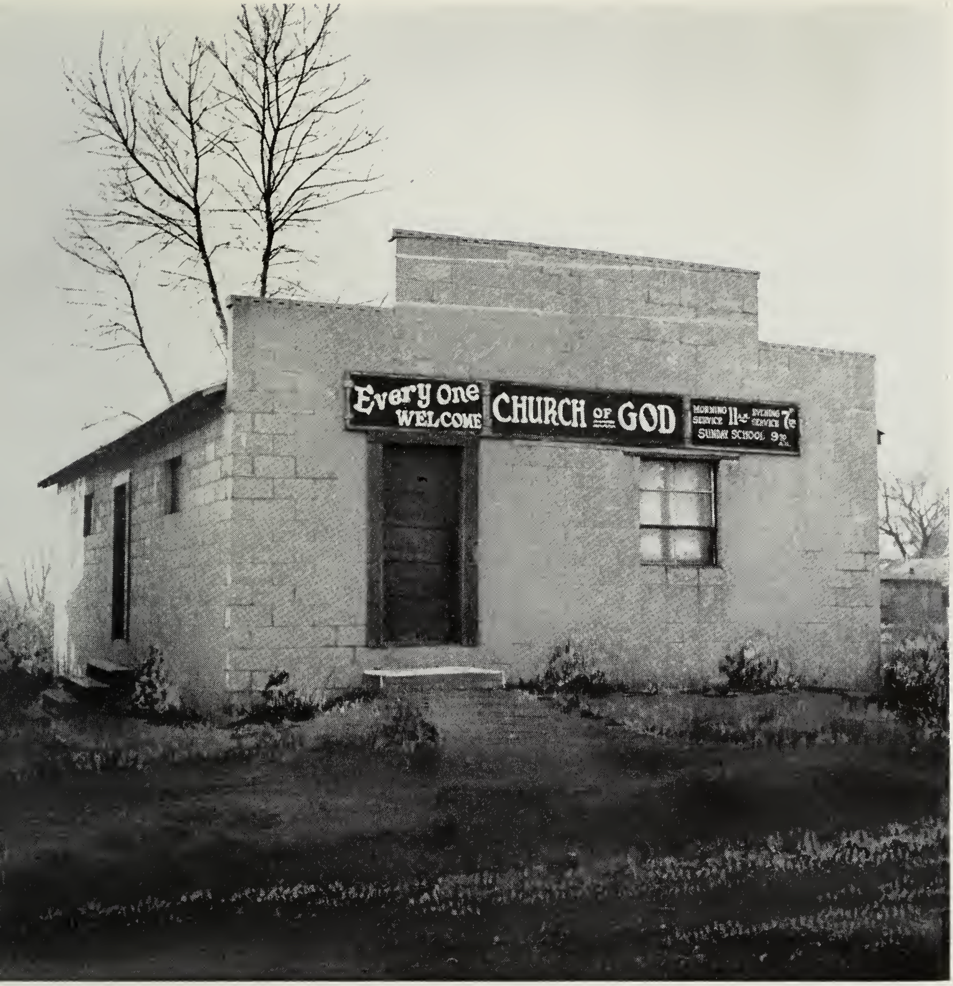
IN 1950, Mrs. Christine Salter began having prayer meetings in her home. In 1951, a building was rented at 220 South Sheridan Avenue and services were held there. The Reverend Smith Davis was pastor. Later he left for college and was succeeded by the Reverend Robert Green.

In February 1954, with the aid of the Illinois State Ministerial Assembly of the Church of God, a building at 103 North Adelbert Avenue was purchased, and a few months later the congregation of the Church of God began using this building for worship services.

While at the present time the church has no permanent pastor, good progress is being made under volunteer leadership and supply pastors. Preaching services, Sunday school and Youth Fellowship meetings are held each Sunday.

Mrs. Christine Salter

Sunday School Superintendent, Church of God


Every One WELCOME
CHURCH OF GOD
MORNING SERVICE 11 A.M.
EVENING SERVICE 7 P.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

Church of God

Church of God in Christ

108 South Sheridan Avenue

IN 1935, Mrs. Anna Wright was divinely led from Rollins, Illinois, to Freeport.

On arriving she roomed at Mr. Blaine Wright's home on Hancock Avenue. The prayer meeting she started soon blossomed into a church which was organized by her husband, Elder Ezekiel Wright, an ordained minister.

Under their leadership the church grew and was instrumental in leading many to Christ, and doing much community good. The building was erected in 1938.

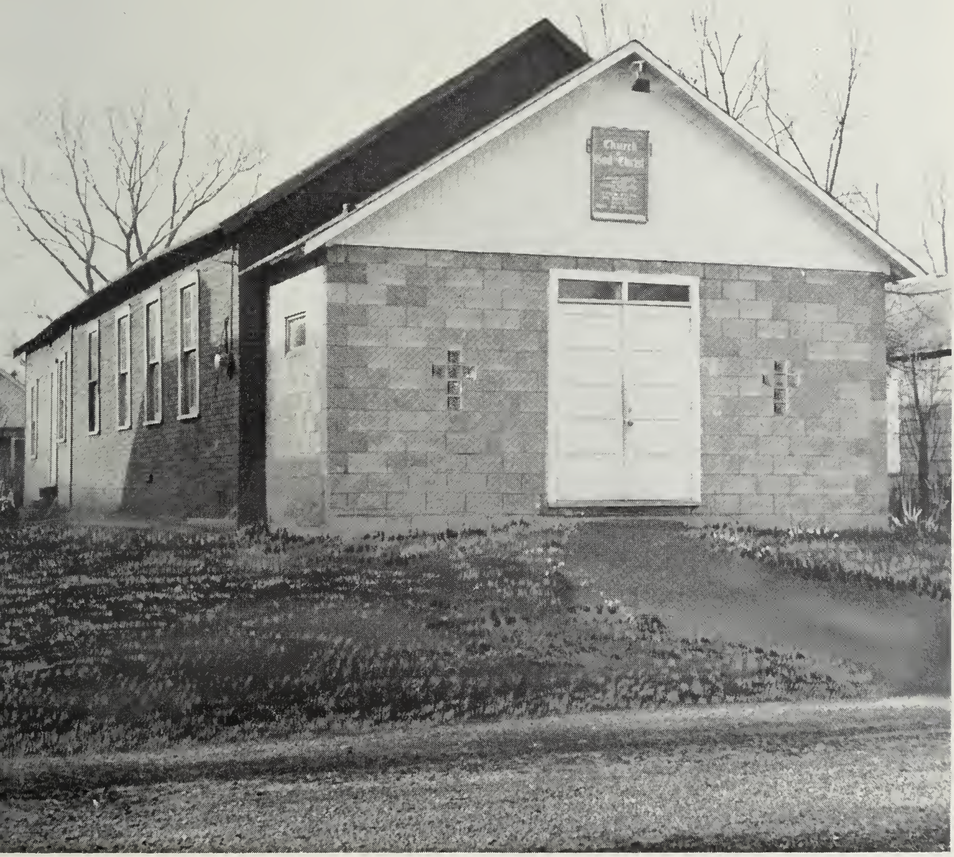
Elder Wright literally died in his pulpit after finishing his sermon March 25, 1949. Immediately following his death, his son George was appointed pastor by Bishop Wm. Roberts, State Overseer of the Churches of God in Christ.

Since 1949 the building has been enlarged and a new front added.

The church is faithfully carrying on its soul-saving evangelical message.

George Wright

Pastor, Church of God in Christ


Church
of
God in Christ

Church of God in Christ

Church of the Nazarene

South Carroll Avenue and East Empire Street

IN 1926, the Reverend E. O. Chalfant organized the Church of the Nazarene in Freeport, Illinois. A building, 34 x 48 feet, was erected, with mostly all donated labor, on the corner of East Shawnee Street and South Ottawa Avenue, at a cost of approximately $2,000.

In 1949, this building was sold to the Salvation Army, and the building and property illustrated was purchased at a cost of $7,500.

The congregation has outgrown the present building, and plans have been made to erect a new church directly in front of the present building, extending east to Carroll Avenue, with an L-shaped unit for Sunday school rooms extending south along Carroll. The present building will then be used for additional Sunday school space, recreation, and young people's meetings. It is hoped that the new church building will be begun within the present year.

Roger Williams

Pastor, Church of the Nazarene

CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE
IF YOU LIVE
WRONG
YOU CAN NOT DIE
RIGHT!

Church of the Nazarene

Embury Methodist Church

515 South Galena Avenue

EMBURY Methodist Church was organized about 1865. There are 38 churches in the city of Freeport. It has been frequently referred to as "the City of Churches." Embury is now one of the larger churches of the city.

It attempts to carry on a ministry of sound evangelism and Christian culture, as set forth by Christ and recorded in the Gospels and other portions of Holy Writ. It takes an active part in the moral and cultural affairs of the community, in the interests of all people, especially children and youth.

Beginning with a membership of approximately 60, its membership in 1954 is approximately 1550. This church appears destined to a continuous growth in membership and in the dissemination of Christian thinking and living.

Paul W. Bloomquist

Pastor, Embury Methodist Church

Embury Methodist Church

First Baptist Church

West Empire and South Blackhawk Streets

IN 1845, fourteen Baptists under direction of Reverend James Schofield organized Freeport's First Baptist Church. The first meeting place was the old wooden courthouse. In 1846, a storeroom in the western part of town was secured.

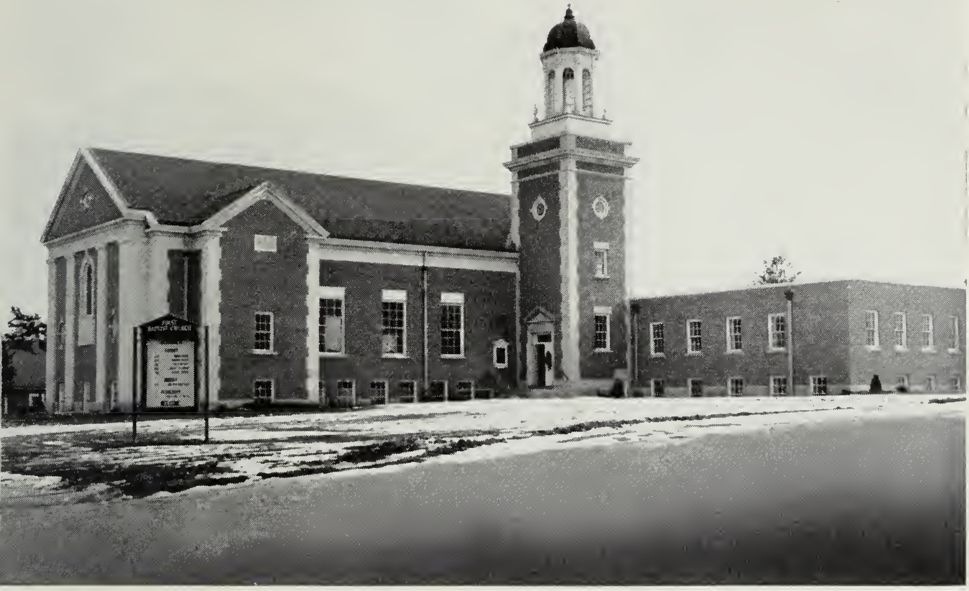
In 1848, D. A. Knowlton Sr. donated a lot, and on Christmas morning 1850 a new church, on the site of the present St. Joseph's Catholic Church, was dedicated.

In 1862, property was purchased on West Stephenson Street and a new building erected. February 1950, the congregation voted to relocate at West Empire and Blackhawk Streets. The new edifice erected there was dedicated April 25, 1954.

First Baptist Church is known as "typically American." Its building is colonial in design, with all the conveniences that American architecture provides. Its people come from all walks of life and represent "the melting pot" of the world. Their motto is: "the church with a glad hand and a warm heart."

N. A. Wiens

Pastor, First Baptist Church


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Church

First Church of Christ, Scientist

429 West Stephenson Street

LOCAL INTEREST in Christian Science dates from 1887, when a group of students rented a room in Fry's block, Stephenson and Chicago Streets, and inaugurated meetings on Sunday afternoons.

In the 1890's, a former resident of Freeport, a student of Mrs. Eddy's, organized and taught a class here, and in 1898, under her guidance, the local organization became a branch of the Mother Church.

Larger quarters soon became necessary and a room was secured on the second floor of the Wilcoxon Block, Van Buren and Exchange Streets, a Sunday school was added and a public Reading Room opened.

In October 1907, the present site was purchased. In 1919, the residence occupying it was remodeled, and November 26, 1925, it was dedicated as a church edifice. Services were held here until May 1939, when it was razed to make way for the present structure, which was opened to the public March 17, 1940.

Charles F. Stocking

Author and Teacher

First Church of Christ, Scientist

First Church of the Open Bible

700 West Chestnut Street

IN 1944, the Reverend Charles Leaming, nationally known evangelist, came to Freeport on the urge of his cousin Merrill Spencer, who felt the need for an Open Bible Church here.

Shortly afterwards, a group of Open Bible ministers held a rally service in the Freeport Gospel Tabernacle, with the thought of opening a permanent work. In June of that year the Reverend and Mrs. Robert F. DeWeese, Reverend Gust Block and Reverend Charles Edwards came to Freeport and started services. In April 1945, the church was organized by Reverend Charles Piper.

The new church, at 700 West Chestnut Street, was erected under the leadership of Reverend M. Marie Hume, at a cost of $25,000. It was dedicated June 11, 1951.

A beautiful oil painting of Christ, by G. W. Schultz of Freeport, adds much to its interior. An organ, dedicated to the memory of loved ones, is in contemplation.

Verl Sterns Sr.

Pastor, First Church of the Open Bible

First
Church of Open Bible
WELCOME

First Church of the Open Bible

First English Evangelical and Reformed Church

South Carroll Avenue and South Galena Avenue

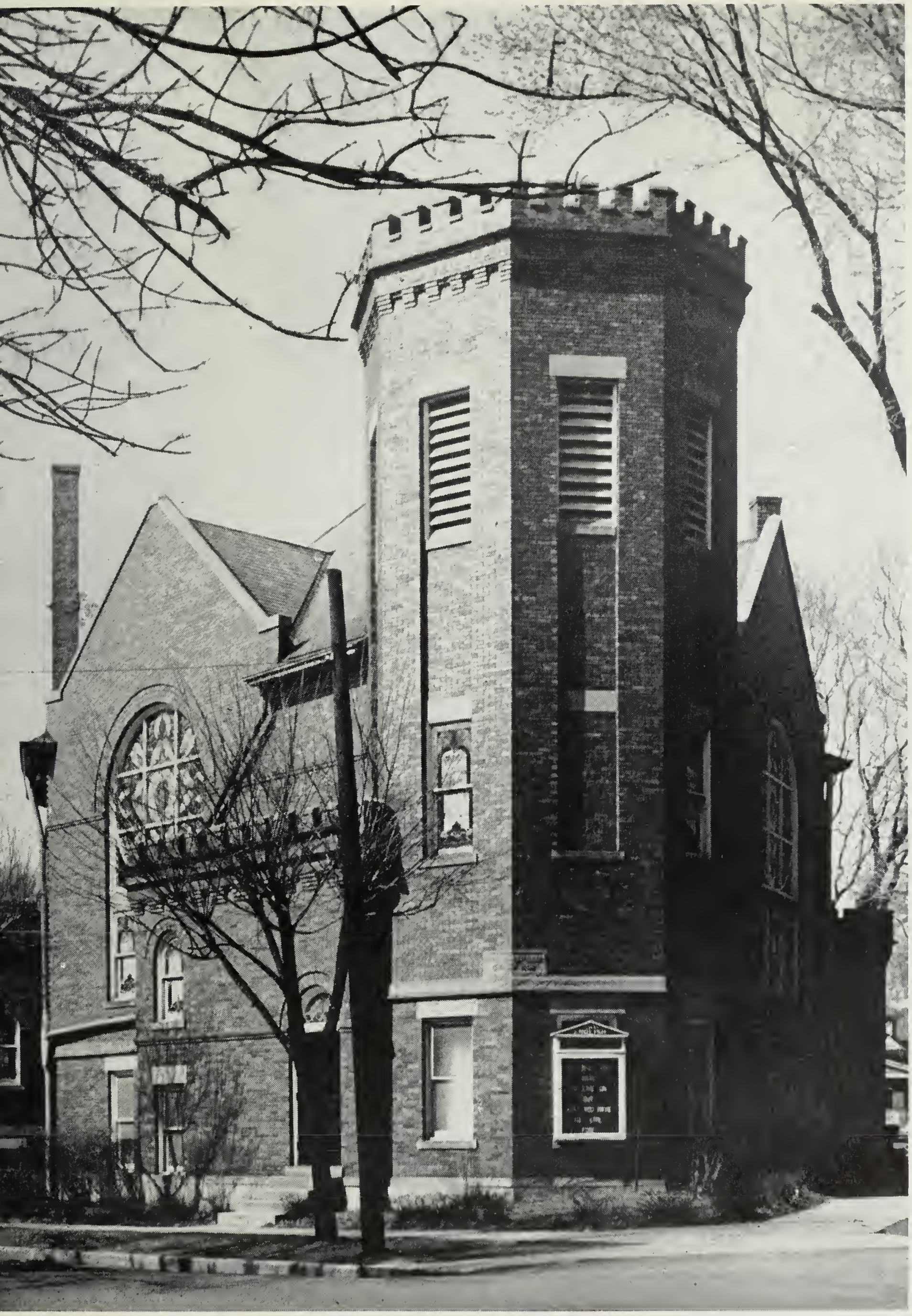
THE congregation colloquially known as English Reformed Church traces its beginnings in 1906 to the need for establishing a church of the Reformed faith for English-speaking people. Meeting at what was then Third Presbyterian Church, corner South Galena Avenue and Pleasant Street, a congregation was established on October 7, 1906, under the temporary leadership of the Reverend R. F. Shultz.

With the Reverend C. M. Rohrbaugh as its first pastor, the infant congregation dedicated a church building of its own in November 1908, corner South Galena and South Carroll Avenues. This building is still the worship and meeting center of the congregation.

In 1934, when the Reformed Church of the United States merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America, this congregation officially became First English Evangelical and Reformed Church. In accordance with the ecumenical spirit of the denomination, the congregation feels its unity of spirit with all Christian people.

Armin C. Menz.

Pastor, First English Evangelical
and Reformed Church



First English Evangelical and Reformed Church

First Lutheran Church

303 South Galena Avenue

IN 1851, initial steps were taken by the Lutheran Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society in America to organize an English Lutheran Church in Freeport. First services were held in old Temperance Hall.

In 1881, First Lutheran was organized by the Reverend T. F. Reiser. The following year, a lot at the southeast corner of Jackson and South Galena Streets was purchased as a church site for $900.

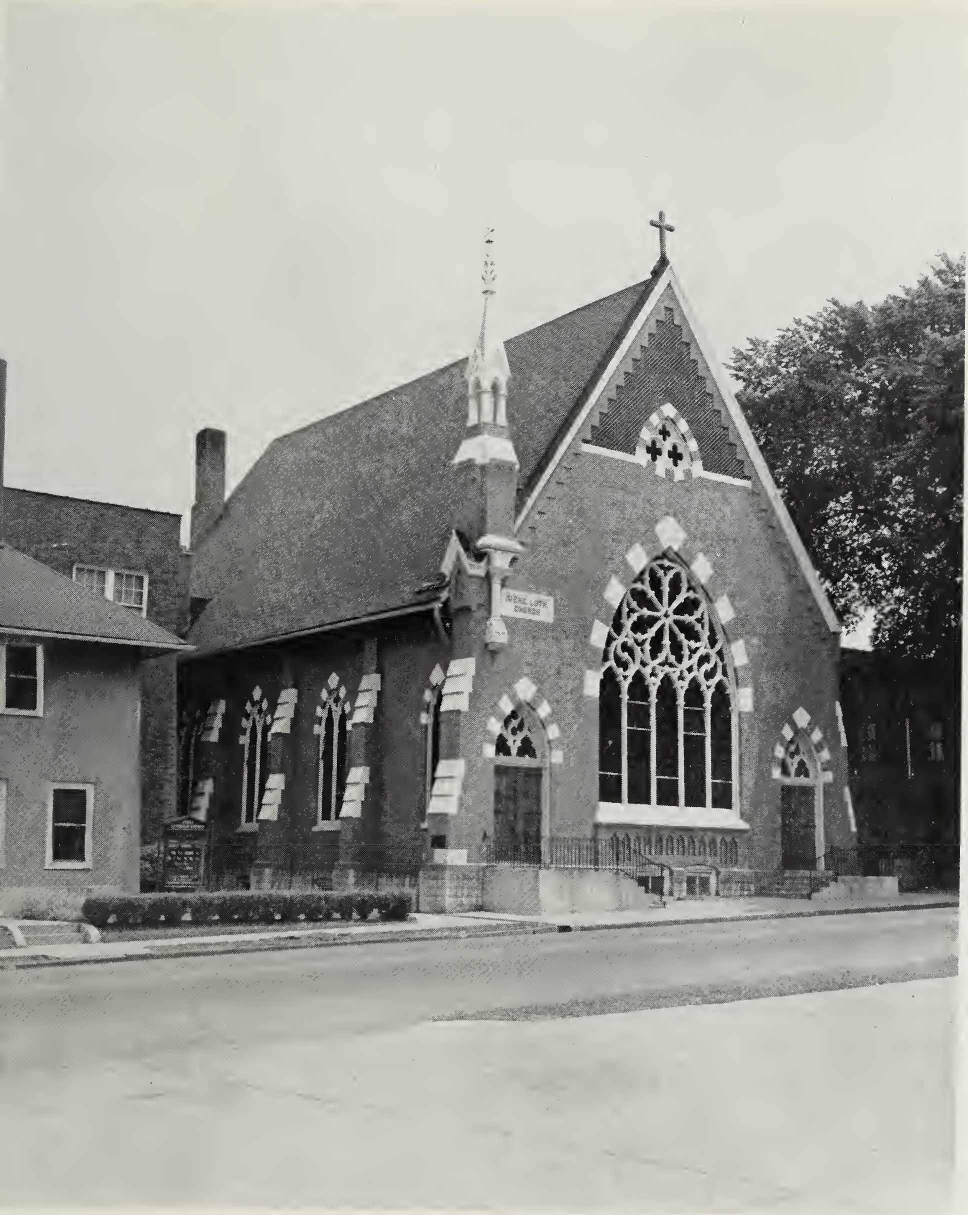
During the pastorate of the Reverend H. A. Ott the church cornerstone was laid and the edifice was dedicated. The organization became self-supporting in 1893 and assumed its present name.

Today's structure is similar to the first church building. Its twenty stained glass windows are said to be the most beautiful of their kind in the city.

The church plant of today consists of the main church auditorium, the large educational building, and the structure housing the church offices and the pre-school classrooms.

Charles F.

Pastor, First Lutheran Church



First Lutheran Church

First Methodist Church

328 West Stephenson Street

IN 1834, the Reverend L. A. Sugg organized the Buffalo Grove mission. He was succeeded in 1835 by the Reverend James McKean, who preached the first Methodist sermon in the locality now known as Stephenson County. In 1836, the old Indian settlement protected by the noted Chief Winneshiek became the town of Freeport. Stephenson County came into being in 1837, at which time also the First Methodist congregation was organized.

The Methodists met in the courthouse until 1842, when the present site of the First Methodist Church was purchased for $50, and a frame and stone building was erected at a cost of $2,000. The building illustrated, erected in 1904, is the third on the same site.

The First Methodist Church, Freeport, is considered the most beautiful church in northern Illinois, because of its picturesque windows. It is often called "The church with the lighted window."

V. Edw. Birch

Pastor, First Methodist Church

First Methodist Church

First Presbyterian Church

302 West Stephenson Street

THE FIRST Presbyterian Church of Freeport, Illinois, was organized in 1842, and according to the historical records of L. A. Fulwider and M. H. Tilden, it was the first organized Protestant church in Freeport and Stephenson County.

From 1842 until 1847 services were held in the courthouse. The first building was erected in 1847, on the site of the present Telephone Building. In 1866, the present building was erected. With a seating capacity of six hundred, it is still adequate for present needs.

The structure, of true Gothic, is said to be a copy of a church in England. Erected at a cost of $50,000.00, it could not be replaced today for $400,000.00, its insurable value.

Reverend Calvin Waterbury was the organizer and first pastor of the Church, from 1842 until 1847. Only eleven pastors have occupied the pulpit in the 111 years of service in the city of Freeport.

George T Shepherd

Pastor, First Presbyterian Churc

First Presbyterian Church

Free Methodist Church

South Walnut Avenue and Broadway

THE EARLY records of the Freeport Free Methodist Church, previous to 1878, have been lost. It is known, however, that on June 10, 1864, during the Civil War, Bishop Roberts held a service here, and the Reverend Joseph Travis came as the first pastor in 1865.

Services were held in the old Concert Hall, on Stephenson Street, between Chicago and State Avenues.

In 1878, the Society erected a church on the present location, under the ministry of the Reverend A. F. Ferries. Dedication services were held in 1879, with the Reverend W. W. Kelly officiating.

In 1943 and 1944, the church was remodeled. New windows, a new front and the brick veneer siding were added.

The Free Methodist Church is known as "The Little Brown Church on Broadway."

The present pastor came to Freeport in 1947 and has served the church to this date.

JW Hanson

Pastor, Free Methodist Church

FREE
METHODIST
CHURCH
WELCOME

Free Methodist Church

Grace Episcopal Church

10 South Cherry Avenue

EPISCOPAL services were held in Freeport as early as 1848, in a room on Galena Street (now Main Street), but the parish was not formally organized until June 17, 1850, under the name of Zion Parish.

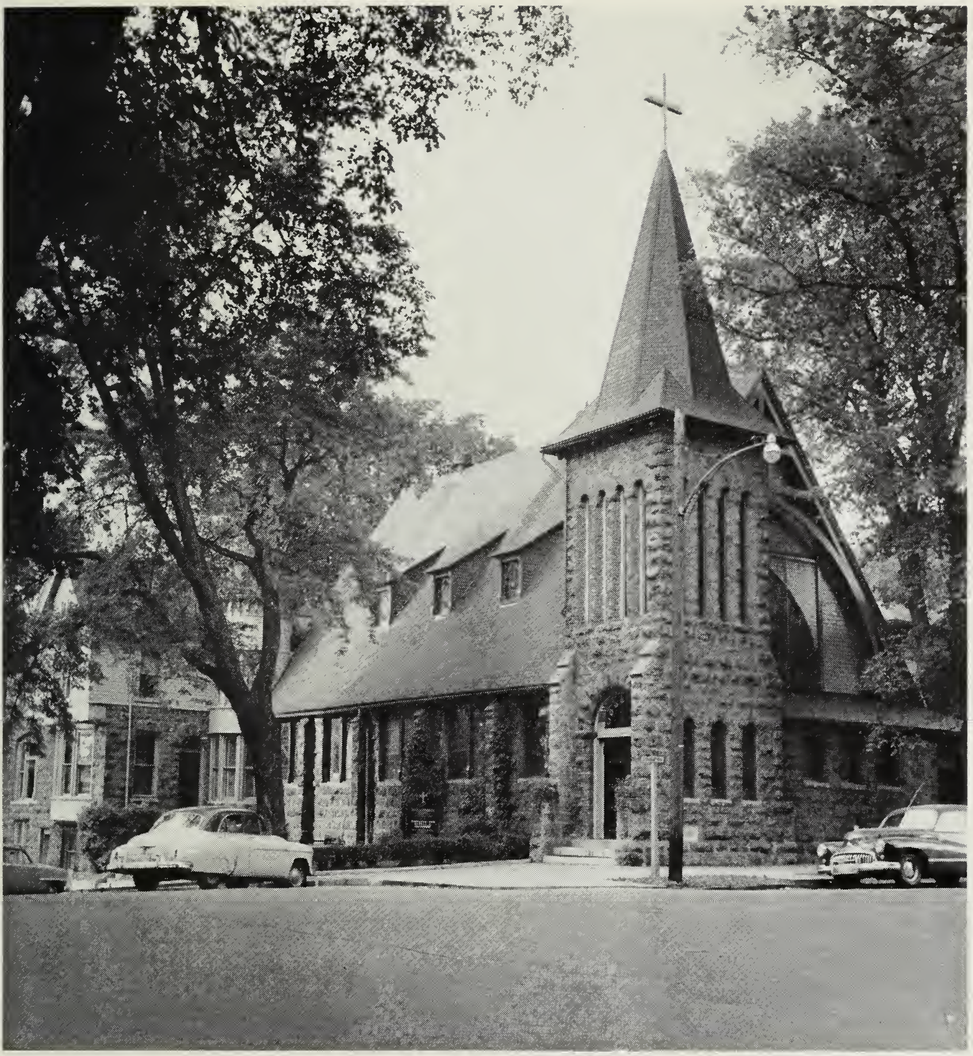
The work of building a church—a frame building on the present site—was begun in 1851. In 1861, these quarters no longer adequate, a new structure was almost completed when a tornado completely destroyed the building. Undaunted, the parishioners returned to their room on Galena Street for worship until the present church and rectory were completed in 1887. The opening service was held December 18, 1887, one week before Christmas.

The new edifice, only seven months under construction, is built of stone taken from the quarries adjacent to Freeport. The church is gradually acquiring some beautiful stained glass windows given as memorials.

The name of Zion Parish was changed to Grace Episcopal Church in about 1890.

Charles M. Pond

Pastor, Grace Episcopal Church



Grace Episcopal Church

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

607 South Galena Avenue

IN THE fall of 1953, the few Freeport families of Greek origin bought the former Redeemer Lutheran Church. Since the arrival of the first Greek immigrants in the early part of the 20th century 350 Greek Orthodox Churches have been established in this country.

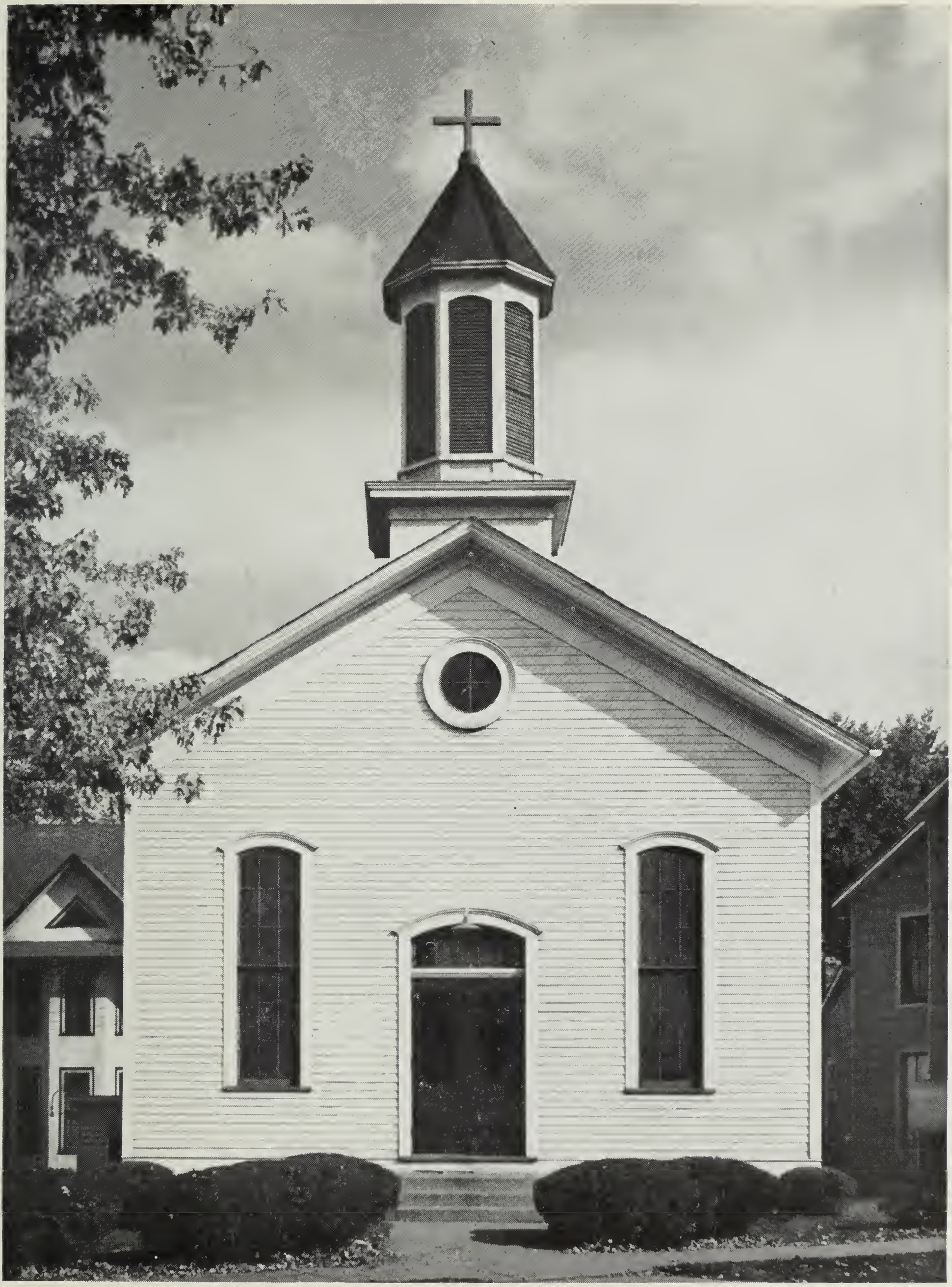
The Greek Orthodox Church, founded by Jesus Christ and the Apostles, is the "Mother" of all Christian churches. The original Christian church remained undivided until the Great Schism in 1054 A. D. At that time the church split into the Greek Orthodox Church in the East and the Roman Catholic Church in the West.

The Greek Orthodox Church bases its faith on the Holy Bible, Holy Tradition and the decisions of the seven Ecumenical Councils. There are about 250 million Orthodox Christians in the world and approximately eight million in the United States.

The Greek Orthodox Church of Freeport at the present time does not have a permanent pastor, but is served by a Rockford pastor.

Steve Christ Zanis

Pastor, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church,
Nashville, Tennessee



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

South Chicago Avenue and East Pleasant Street

On MAY 6, 1877, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Unaltered Augusburg Confession, Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois, was organized under the leadership of the Reverend T. J. Grosse. The Constitution was adopted and signed by nineteen men.

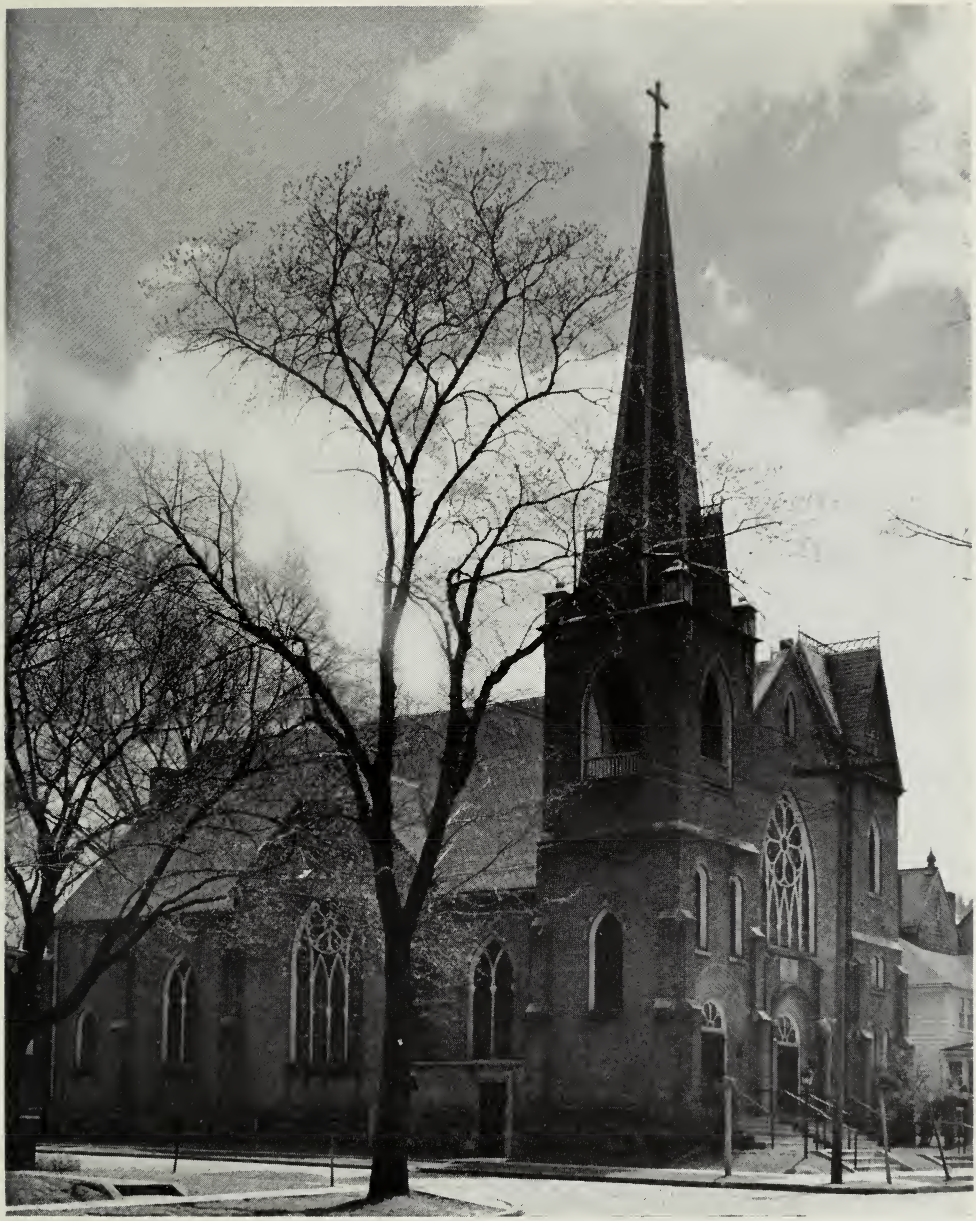
On September 2, 1877, the first church was dedicated on property secured at South Chicago Avenue and West Pleasant Street. In 1886, the second church was dedicated, and the first church became the school building. Our present large and beautiful brick church, at the corner of South Chicago Avenue and East Pleasant Street, was dedicated December 1, 1900. It cost $13,000.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church has one of the few lofty, inspiring spires, surmounted by a cross, which is so characteristic of the architecture of the early churches built in Freeport. Towers date most of the later churches.

Immanuel congregation has a membership of 850 souls and 540 communicants.

F. E. Bartling

Pastor, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Main Street Evangelical United Brethren Church

530 West Main Street

MARCH 13, 1892, a group of Christian workers organized the Main Street Evangelical United Brethren Church with 19 members. The first meeting place was in Temperance Hall on North Chicago Avenue. Later they met in the Y.M.C.A. building which is now the Telephone Exchange.

The building on the present site was dedicated by the Reverend E. B. Kephart, D.D., of Baltimore, Maryland, and the Reverend N. Castle, D.D., of Elkhart, Indiana, bishops of the United Brethren Church, May 9, 1897.

Rebuilding of the church was finished during the last year of service of the Reverend J. T. McCreery, with dedication in 1929.

In 1939, under the leadership of the Reverend H. I. Newell, educational rooms were added to provide space for the Sunday school.

The present Sunday school enrollment is 503, and the church membership is 471. The church supports missionaries in Africa, Japan, India and the Philippine Islands.

J. Dale Doolen

Pastor, Main Street Evangelical
United Brethren Church

Main Street Evangelical United Brethren Church

Oak Avenue Evangelical United Brethren Church

726 South Oak Avenue

IN 1851, the Reverend Henry Rohland organized the first Evangelical Church in the city of Freeport, as a ministry to the German-speaking people. In 1852, a a brick structure costing $1,500 was erected on Oak Avenue.

In 1874, the old building became inadequate for the growing needs of the congregation, and a new brick church costing about $6,000 was erected.

The English language was first used in some of the services in 1908. Later it was used in all of them.

In 1912, the need was felt for increased Sunday school facilities, and the old parsonage north of the church was moved to make room for the new Sunday school addition.

In 1946, due to the merger of two denominations, the church became known as the Oak Avenue Evangelical United Brethren Church. This church now has over 600 members and is making plans and gathering funds for a new and more adequate church structure.

Melvin W. Lang

Pastor, Oak Avenue Evangelical
United Brethren Church

Oak Avenue Evangelical United Brethren Church

Redeemer Lutheran Church

509 West Empire Street

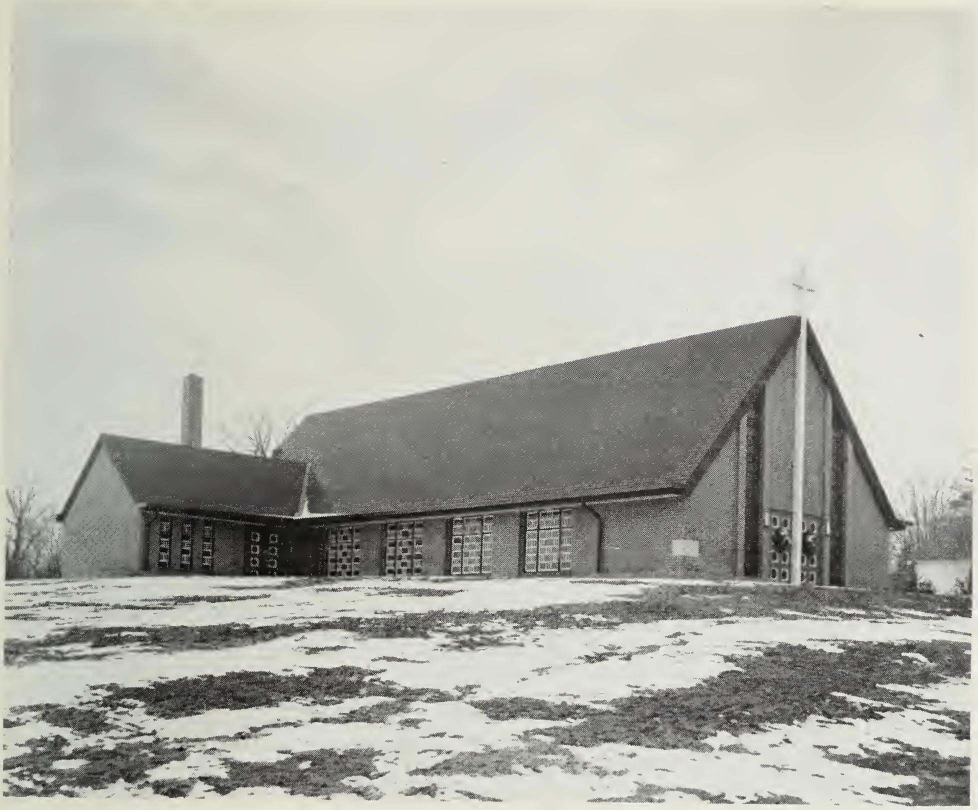
REDEEMER Lutheran congregation was organized May 1, 1910. Its first resident pastor was the Reverend E. V. Haserodt. In June of 1914 the Reverend Charles J. Schuth was installed as pastor, and he has served the congregation continuously since that date.

For 43 years the members worshiped in the church building at 607 South Galena Avenue, which was purchased from Dubuque College. In December of 1953 the congregation dedicated its new church at 509 West Empire Street.

The new church edifice, of contemporary design, is 90 feet long and 32 feet wide, with a 20 x 25-foot ell. Though of contemporary design every line of the building indicates the high and holy purpose which it is to serve. The very simplicity of its construction makes it one of the most attractive churches in the city of Freeport.

Charles J. Schuth

Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church



Redeemer Lutheran Church

St. Catherine's Church

East Stephenson Street and South Sheridan Avenue

PRIOR to 1919, Freeport Catholic families east of the Pecatonica River found difficulty attending church. The Catholic Instruction League, of lay people, attempted to provide training for the children. Classes were conducted in a vacant store.

The Most Reverend Peter J. Muldoon directed Reverend William G. McMillan, then assistant at St. Joseph's parish, to plan for an east side church.

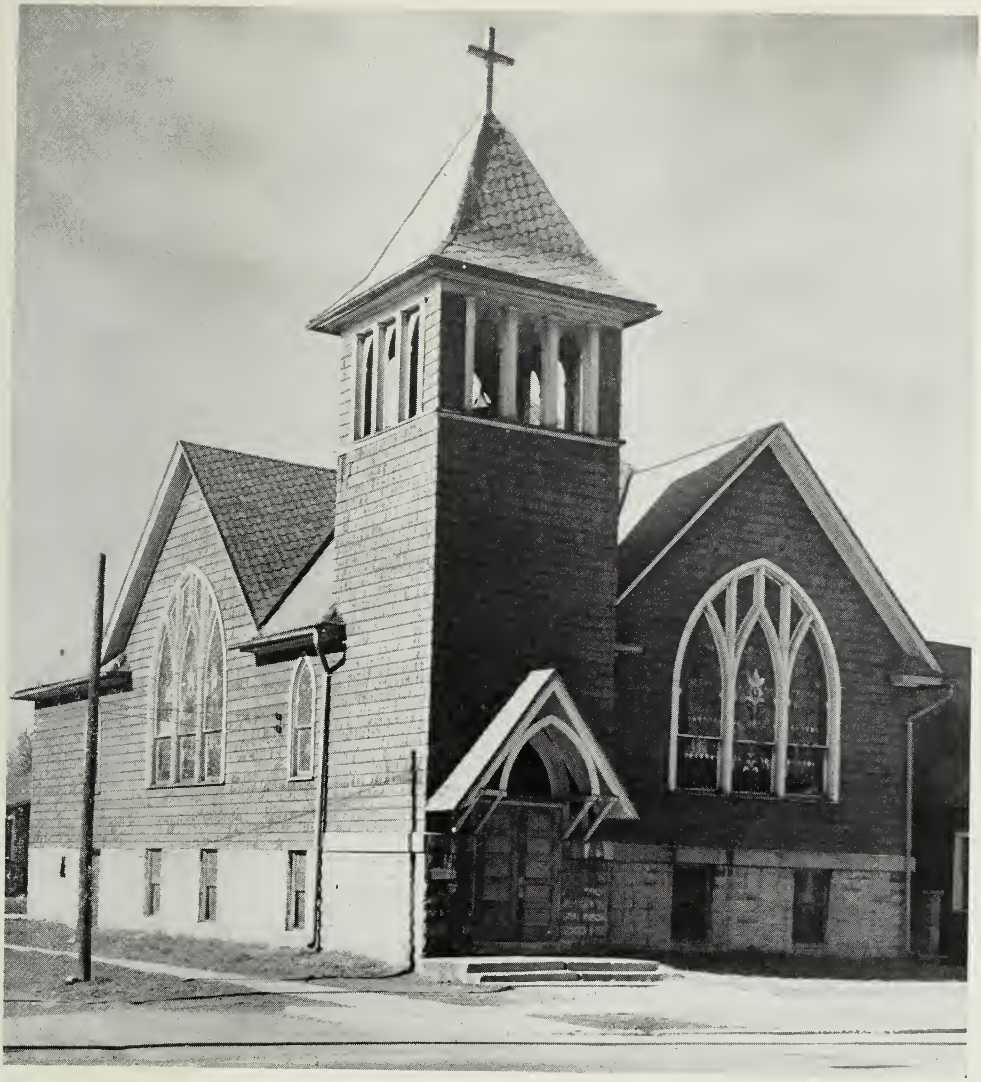
April 1919, a Congregational church on East Stephenson Street was purchased. The interior was entirely remodeled, through contributions of Freeport people. Furniture from an old unused church at New Dublin completed the work. Father McMillan offered the first Mass in St. Catherine's parish church.

When Father McMillan was appointed to establish St. Thomas Parish in Freeport, responsibility for St. Catherine's Church was given to the St. Francis Hospital chaplain.

In 1938, the Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban, then Bishop of Rockford, placed responsibility for the parish with the priests of St. Vincent's Home for Children.

Marcellus Cikan

Pastor, St. Catherine's Church



St. Catherine's Church

St. James C. M. E. Church

105 South Sherman Avenue

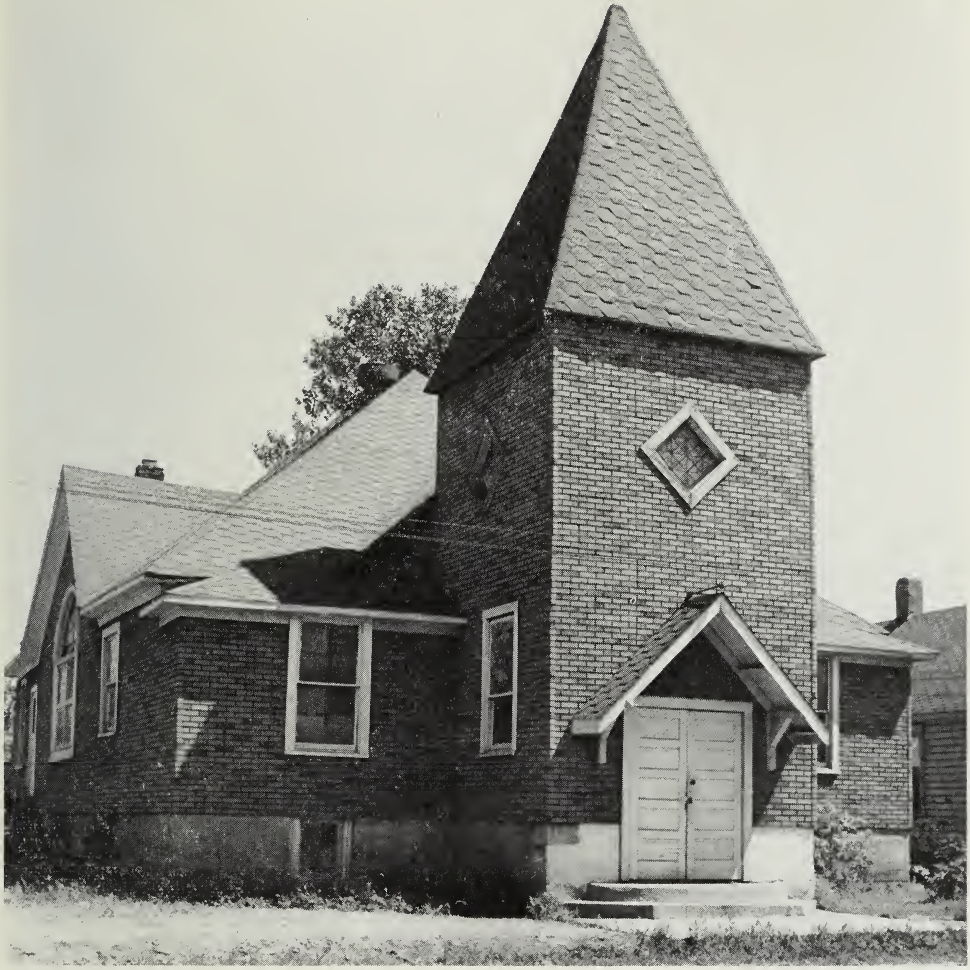
ST. JAMES C. M. E. Church, Freeport, was organized by the late Reverend E. W. Crisp in 1924. The present church, at 105 South Sherman Avenue, was built during the pastorates of the Reverend E. W. Wade, Jim Craig, E. H. Houston and the Reverend Stockbridge.

In the year 1935 this church was dedicated, while the Reverend N. H. Rhodes served as pastor.

Through the years since then the following ministers have carried on the activities of the church: The Reverend A. R. Davis, J. D. Davis, W. J. Turner, Joseph Turner Jr., D. S. Cunningham and C. H. Williams, and good progress has been made during their pastorates.

Edward M Radford

Pastor, St. James C.M.E. Church



St. James C. M. E. Church

St. John Evangelical and Reformed Church

720 South Chicago Avenue

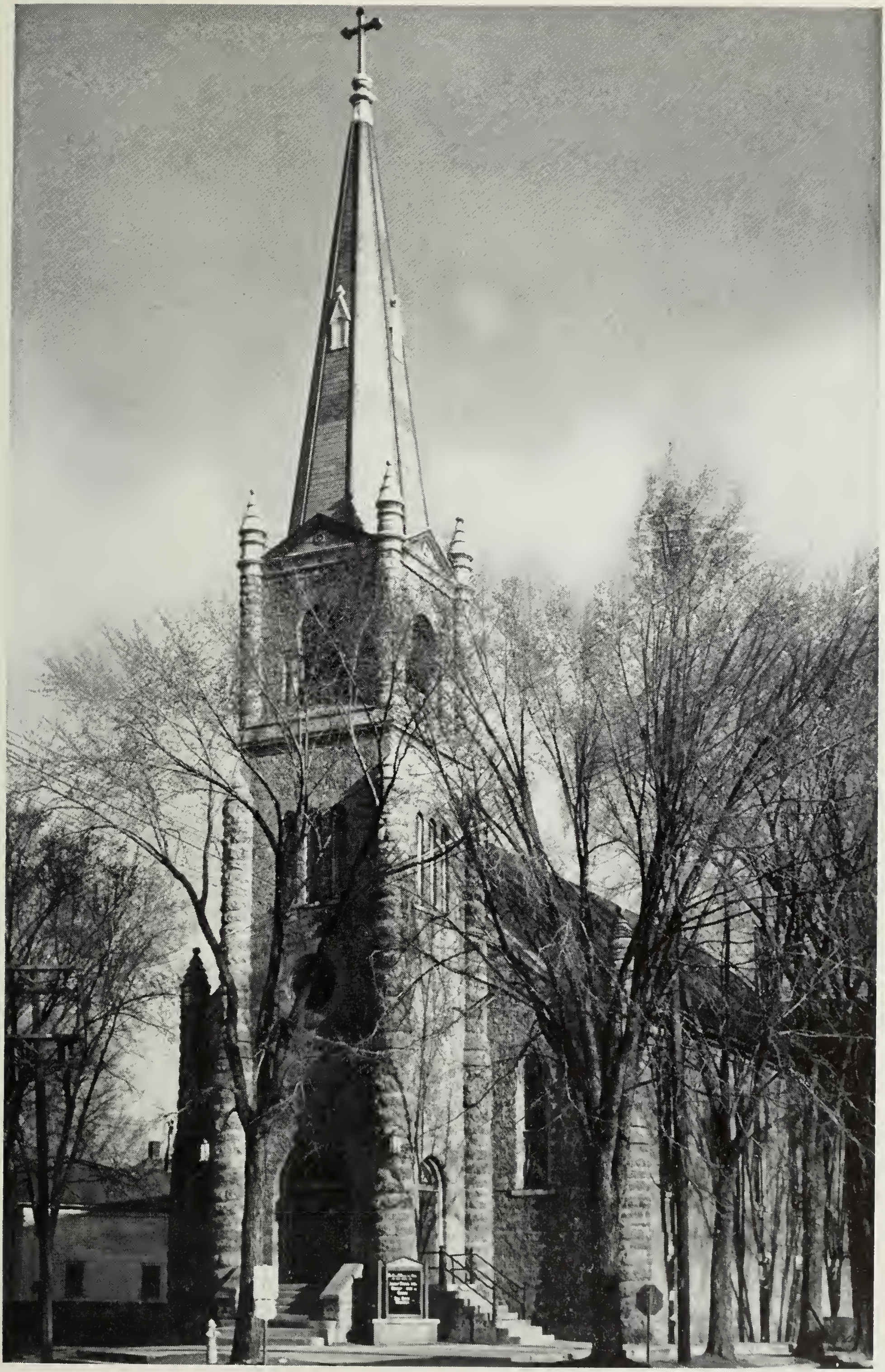
IN JUNE 1848, seven years before Freeport was incorporated as a city, the Reverend Ernest Beine, an ordained minister from Germany widely known for "his interest in things applying to the Christian religion," organized a small congregation which assumed the name of St. John. The first permanent church building was erected during the years 1850-1851. The second house of worship, built in 1865, was rebuilt in 1897, at a cost of $6,000. It was renovated in 1917 and again in 1948.

The congregation at first ministered primarily to the German-speaking settlers, who migrated to this community from Germany in the early 1840's. In the course of years, however, it began the use of the English language and became a church serving the spiritual needs of the community generally.

St. John Church, a member of the Evangelical and Reformed denomination, practices open communion and adheres to the principles of church union.

C. H. Uthlaut

Pastor, St. John Evangelical and
Reformed Church



St. John Evangelical and Reformed Church

St. Joseph's Church

229 West Washington Place

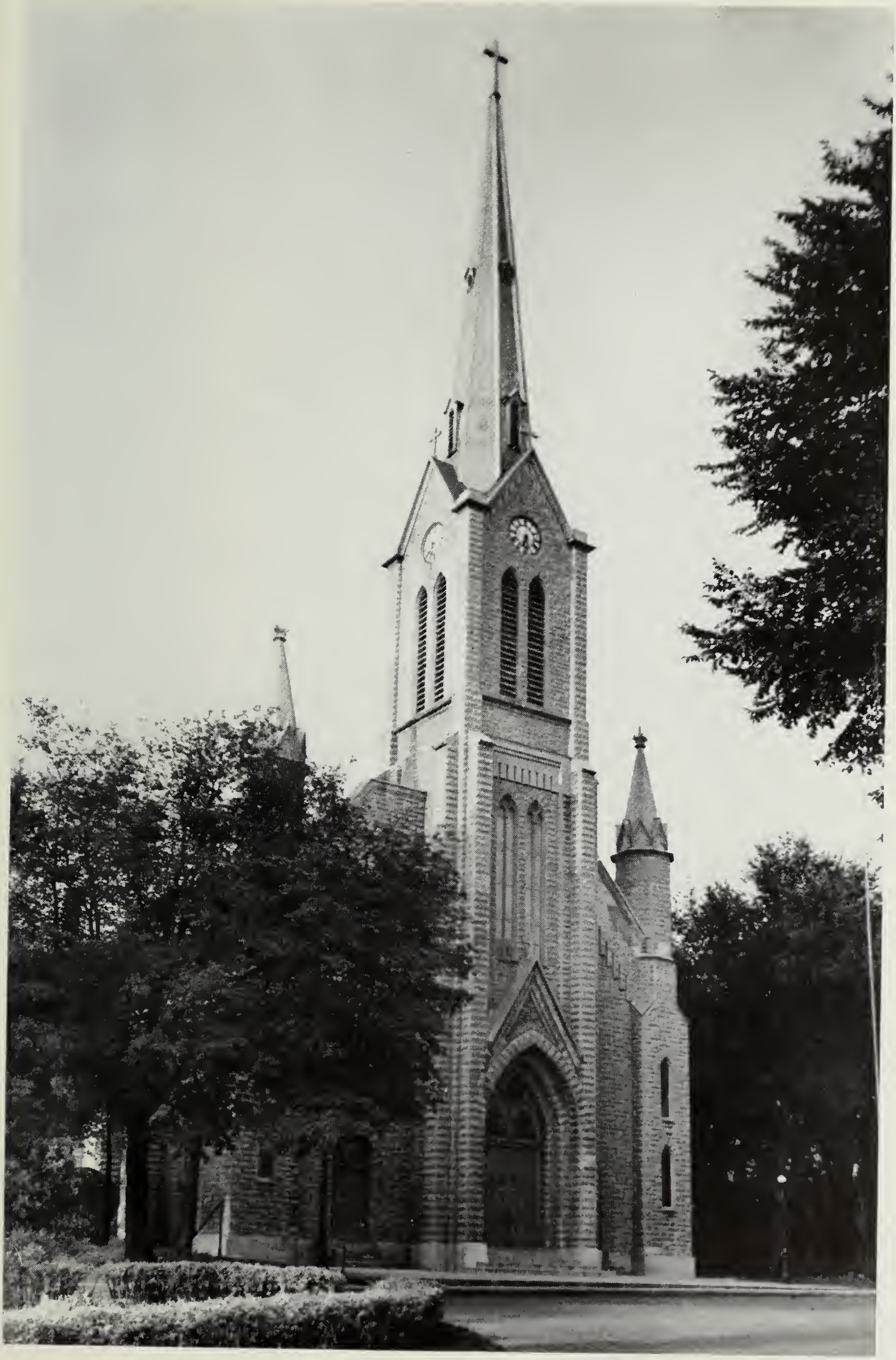
OCTOBER 1827, before the Blackhawk War, Holy Mass was offered for the first time in Freeport, by the Reverend Stephen Bedin.

The first Catholic parish was made up of Germans and Irish. In 1862, the Germans decided to form their own parish, and on June 4 the old Baptist Church was purchased for $2,000. This church, on the present site of St. Joseph's Church, was remodeled and the first Mass celebrated in it August 3, 1862. Father John Westcamp was the pastor.

Within ten years the present Gothic structure was erected. The interior of St. Joseph's has a 60-foot Gothic-arched ceiling, cathedral sanctuary and hand-carved wooden altar, making a most inspiring place of worship.

The lofty, 175-foot tower, with its gilded cross, is the highest point in Freeport. This tower, with the majestic chiming of its bells, truly makes St. Joseph's one of the most outstanding of Freeport's landmarks.

Pastor, St. Joseph's Church



St. Joseph's Church

St. Mary's Church

704 South State Avenue

ST. MARY'S Parish dates from 1846, when the Reverend John Cavanaugh was appointed first Catholic pastor of Freeport and several surrounding missions.

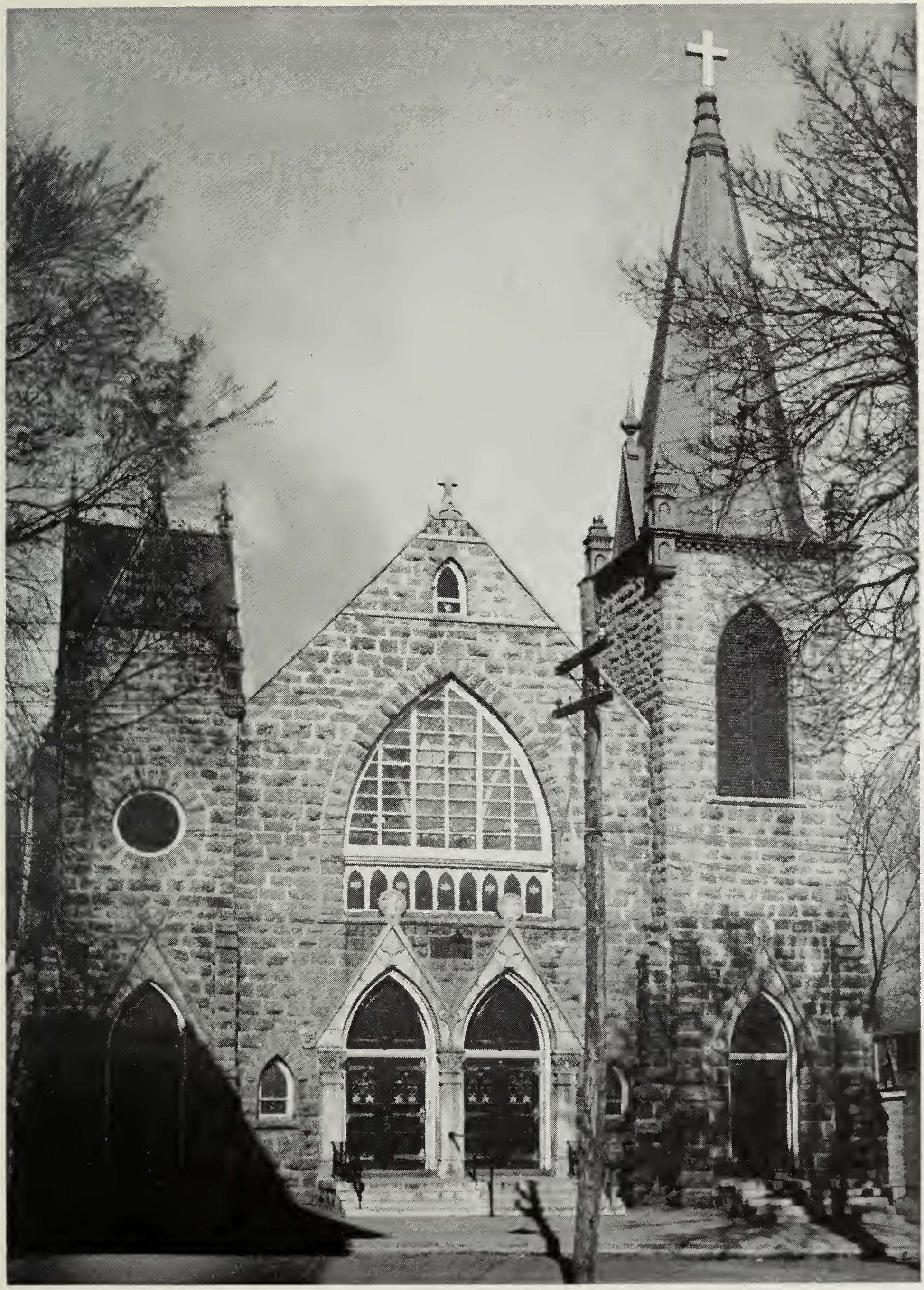
Services were held in the old Brewster Hall until the first small church, erected almost entirely with donated material and labor, was completed in 1851. Four years later a 48 x 80-foot brick edifice was built on the present site. This served the growing congregation for 35 years.

The energetic Reverend W. A. Horan came to St. Mary's Parish in 1889. During the ten years of his pastorate the present native limestone church and rectory were erected and ready for occupancy in 1891. Two years later the parish school, established in 1868, was completely renovated and doubled in size.

The white Italian marble altars, with their pillars of onyx, and the memorial stained glass windows of St. Mary's Church are still considered outstanding examples of ecclesiastical art.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. C. P. Conley

Pastor, St. Mary's Church



St. Mary's Church

St. Paul's Baptist Church

732 East Orin Street

SEPTEMBER 15, 1911, prayer meeting service was begun in a home. These services continued for approximately six months, after which the Reverend M. Williams of Chicago organized the mission.

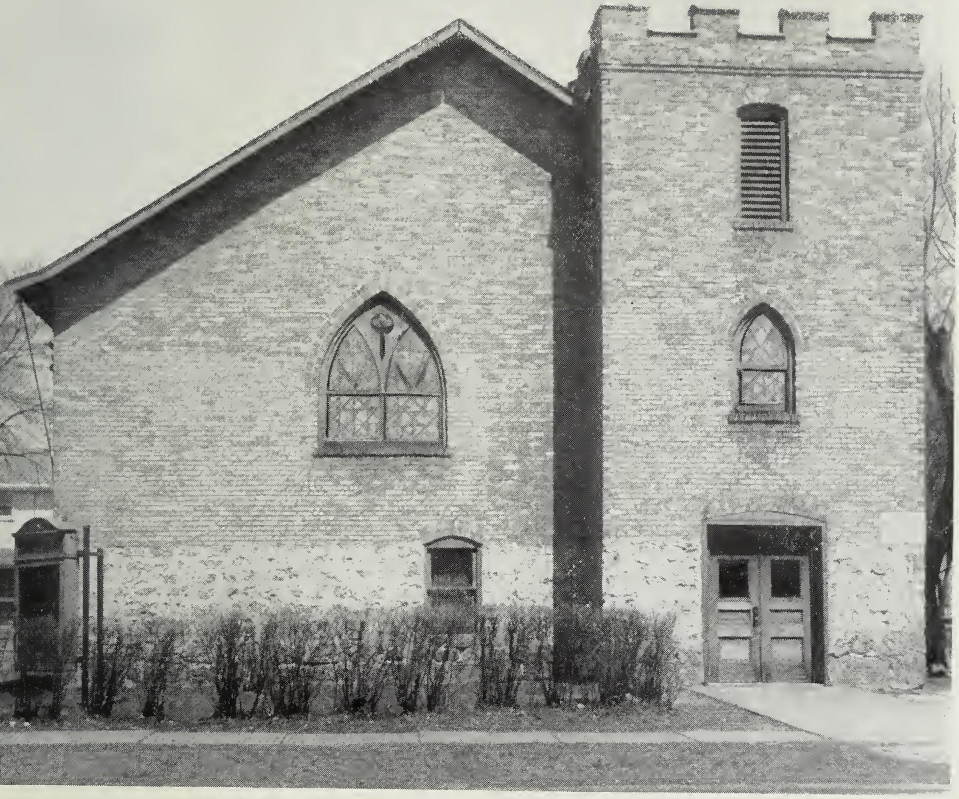
Prayer services and Sunday school continued until 1915, at which time the Reverend Rowton of Rockford served as minister. He was succeeded in 1917 by the Reverend D. Hicks, and the mission was moved to Orin Street.

The mission was changed to Oak Hill Baptist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend Hollman. He was succeeded by the Reverend J. H. Starks, under whose pastorate the name was changed from Oak Hill to St. Paul's.

Later, services were held in the Kraft House, on East Stephenson Street. Then the present lot on East Orin Street was purchased. The cornerstone of the present edifice was laid July 6, 1919, and services began there November 27, 1919, under the Reverend J. H. Starks.

Clayborn Salter

Pastor, St. Paul's Baptist Church



St. Paul's Baptist Church

St. Thomas Aquinas Church and School

25 North Harlem Avenue

SUNDAY, November 27, 1920, the following announcement was made from the Catholic pulpits of Freeport by order of His Excellency, Rt. Rev. P. J. Muldoon, D. D., Bishop of Rockford:

> "Beginning Sunday, December 4, 1920, all Catholics living west of West Avenue will become members of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and all sick calls, marriages, funerals and baptisms in that section of the city will be attended from that church."

The cornerstone of the new St. Thomas Aquinas Church was laid July 10, 1921, and the church was dedicated May 28, 1922. The school section was added in 1931. The church is built so that as needs demand it may be converted into a school. Then a new church will be built.

At present there are 700 members in the parish and 150 children attend the school. There are four teachers, members of the Dominican Sisters from Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, Mother House.

A. S. McIsaac

Pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas Church

St. Thomas Aquinas Church and School

The Salvation Army

604 East Shawnee Street

THE SALVATION ARMY was founded in 1865 by a Methodist minister, William Booth, banding together his converts in a London slum so that under trained leadership they could help one another achieve Christian lives. Soon the growing Army began its services to military personnel and disaster victims.

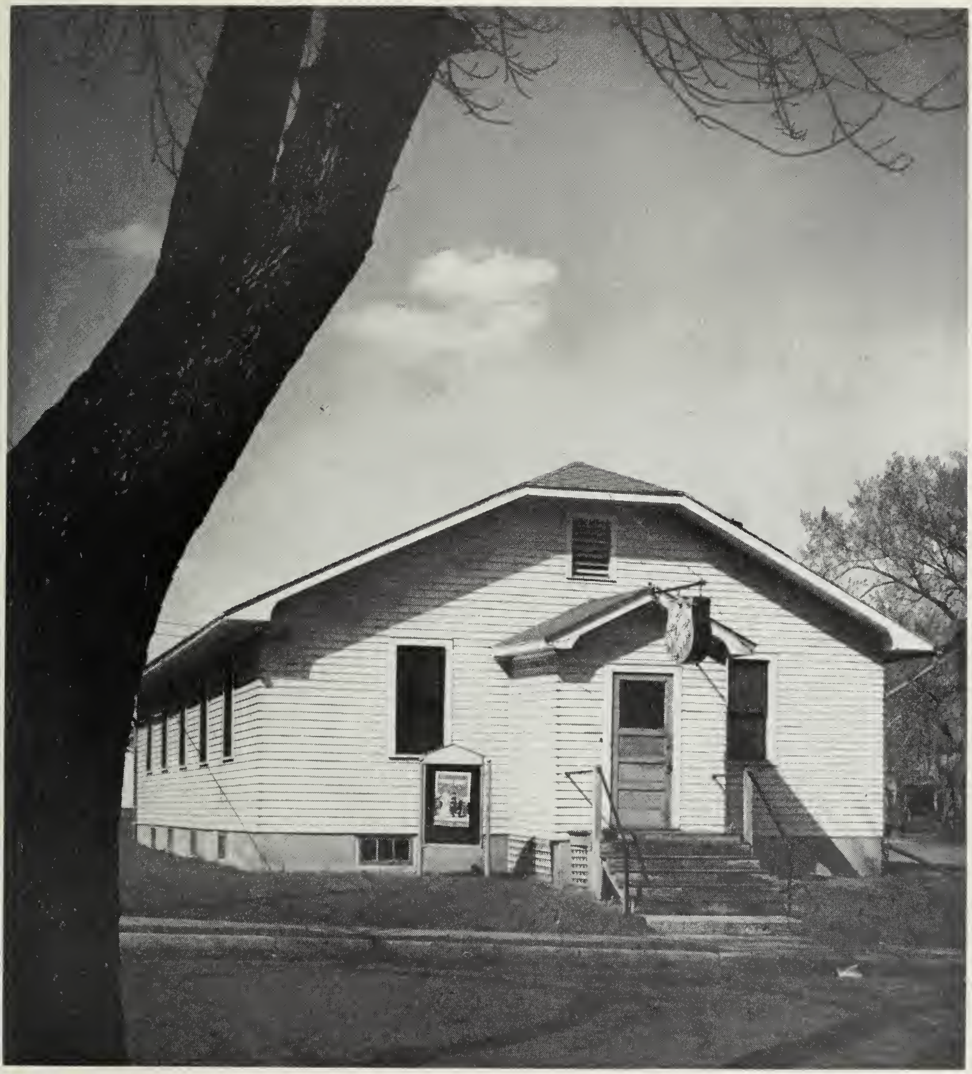
The extreme mobility of the world-wide Salvation Army makes it first on hand in sudden trouble, as Freeport flood victims know, who have been fed, clothed and housed by it until other local agencies could mobilize.

The church pictured was purchased in 1949. The first recorded quarters were at 34 East Stephenson Street in 1884, only nineteen years after the Army began in England.

Present activities include Sunday school; band, chorus, crafts classes and summer camps for youth; similar activities for adults; care of unwed mothers and their babies, transients and those needing rehabilitation; distribution of food, clothing, etc., in co-operation with other charitable agencies.

Howard L. Ryan

Major, The Salvation Army



Salvation Army

Second Baptist Church

623 East Orin Street

THE SECOND Baptist Church of Freeport began in 1932 as a Bible class, grew into a mission church and was formally set apart as a Baptist church November 11, 1932, by the Reverend Irvin Fox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Freeport.

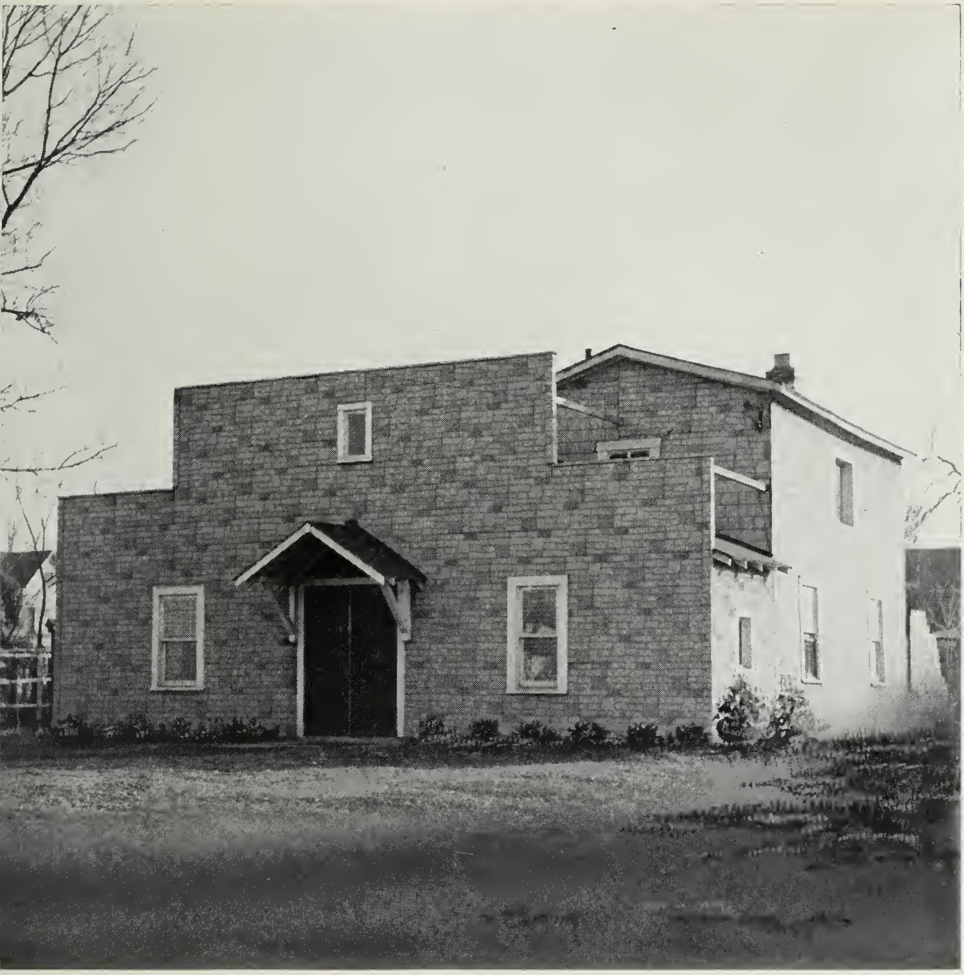
Its first location was at 119 North Adelbert Avenue. The present site, purchased in 1936, cost $2,000. Additions to the original structure made in 1951 cost approximately $2,000. The church owns a parsonage at 41 South Hooker Avenue valued at $4,000. This was purchased in 1945.

The church celebrated its twenty-first anniversary in November 1953, realized it had come of age, and immediately launched a campaign to build a new church on the present site.

Second Baptist Church has never had more than 100 members, but it is known for its loyal members, who pride themselves on keeping the church, parsonage and pastor abreast with the demands of the times.

W. H. Fambro

Pastor, Second Baptist Church



Second Baptist Church

Second Presbyterian Church

203 West Pleasant Street

THIS CHURCH was organized on October 30, 1847, by a committee of three presbyters—the Reverend Ithmar Pillsbury, the Reverend Samuel Cleland and Elder C. A. Spring, who acted under the authority of the Presbytery of Rock River. Three elders were ordained—Samuel Dickey, A. H. Kerr and James Barber. Twenty-seven men and women became communicant members of the new church.

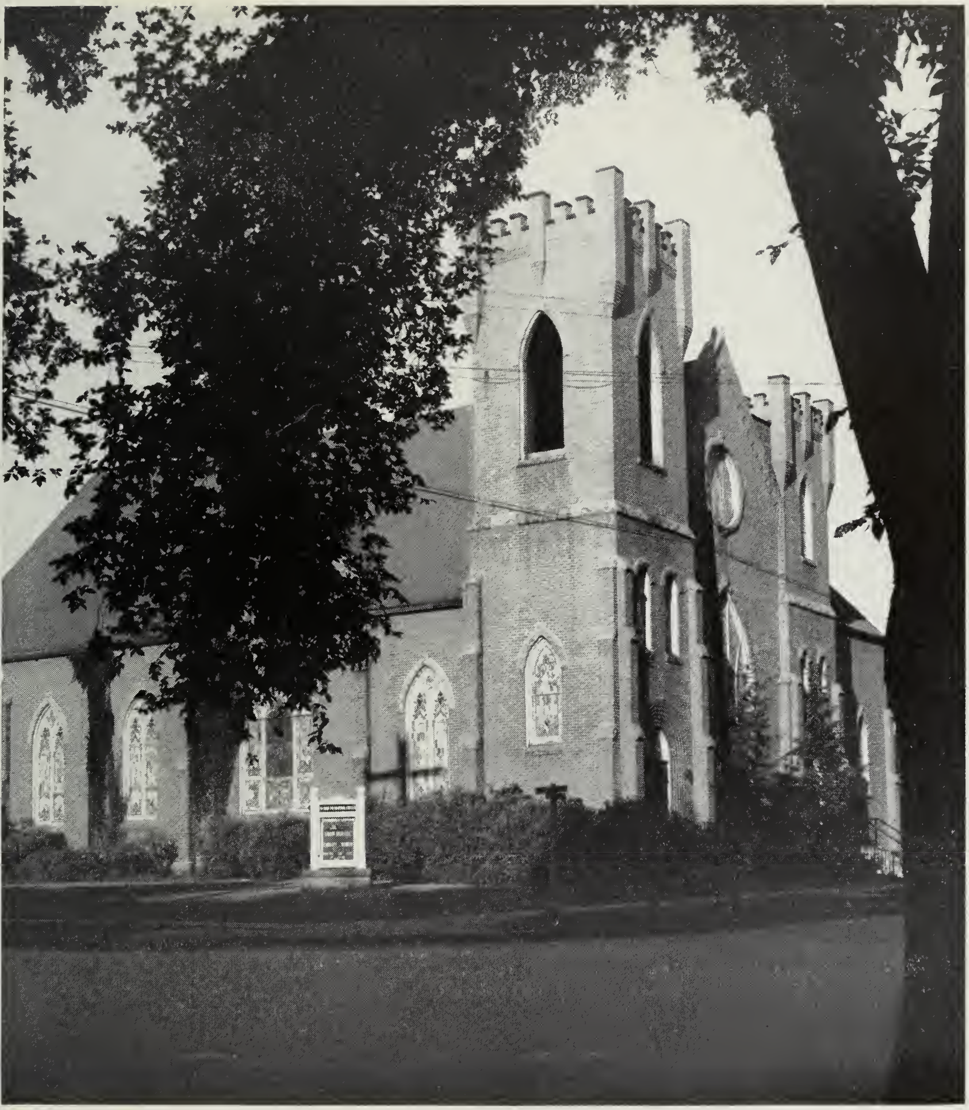
In July 1848, the Reverend John Ustick came as a Stated Supply. He served for twenty-two months. The Reverend James Carroll was the first installed pastor.

The early meetings were held in the old courthouse. The first church building was completed in 1854, at a cost of between $5,000 and $6,000. A second structure was erected in 1896, but this was destroyed by fire on January 9, 1910. The present building was dedicated on April 8, 1911.

The history of the Church has been one of fruitful and steady growth.

Anthony P. Landgraf

Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church



Second Presbyterian Church

Seventh Day Adventist Church

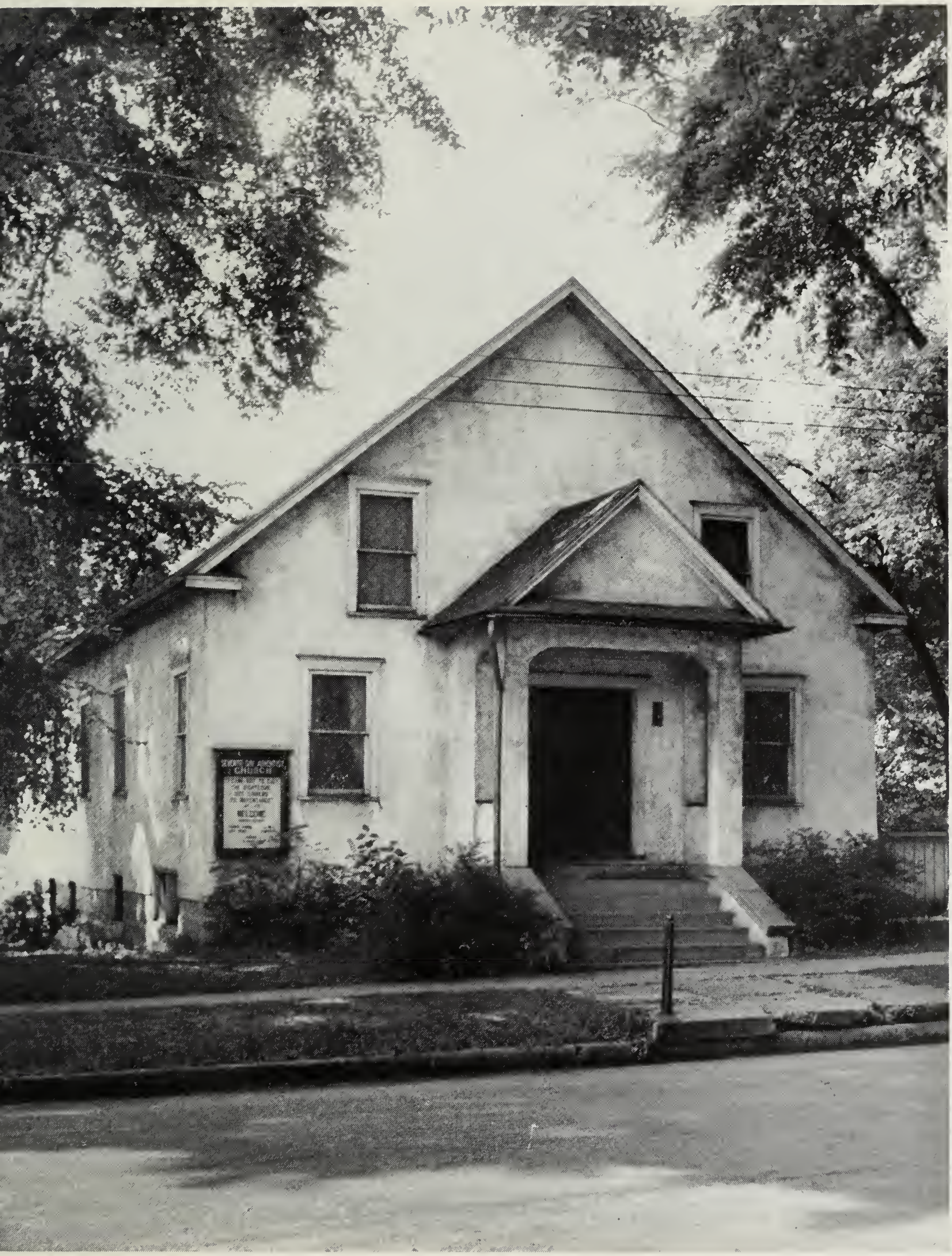
South Beaver Avenue and West Pleasant Street

THE FREEPORT Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized about twenty years ago with thirty-five members, who met each Sunday in the Y.M.C.A. building. However, the congregation was always ambitious to have their own place of worship, and in 1944 they bought from the Christian Church group the church, corner South Beaver Avenue and West Pleasant Street, where they have continued to worship to the present time.

The pastor at this time is O. W. Bacheller, who, with his congregation, hopes to add to the Christian growth and development of the city of Freeport in the future years.

O. W. Bacheller

Pastor, Seventh Day Adventist Church


SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
WELCOME

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Church

602 South Chicago Avenue

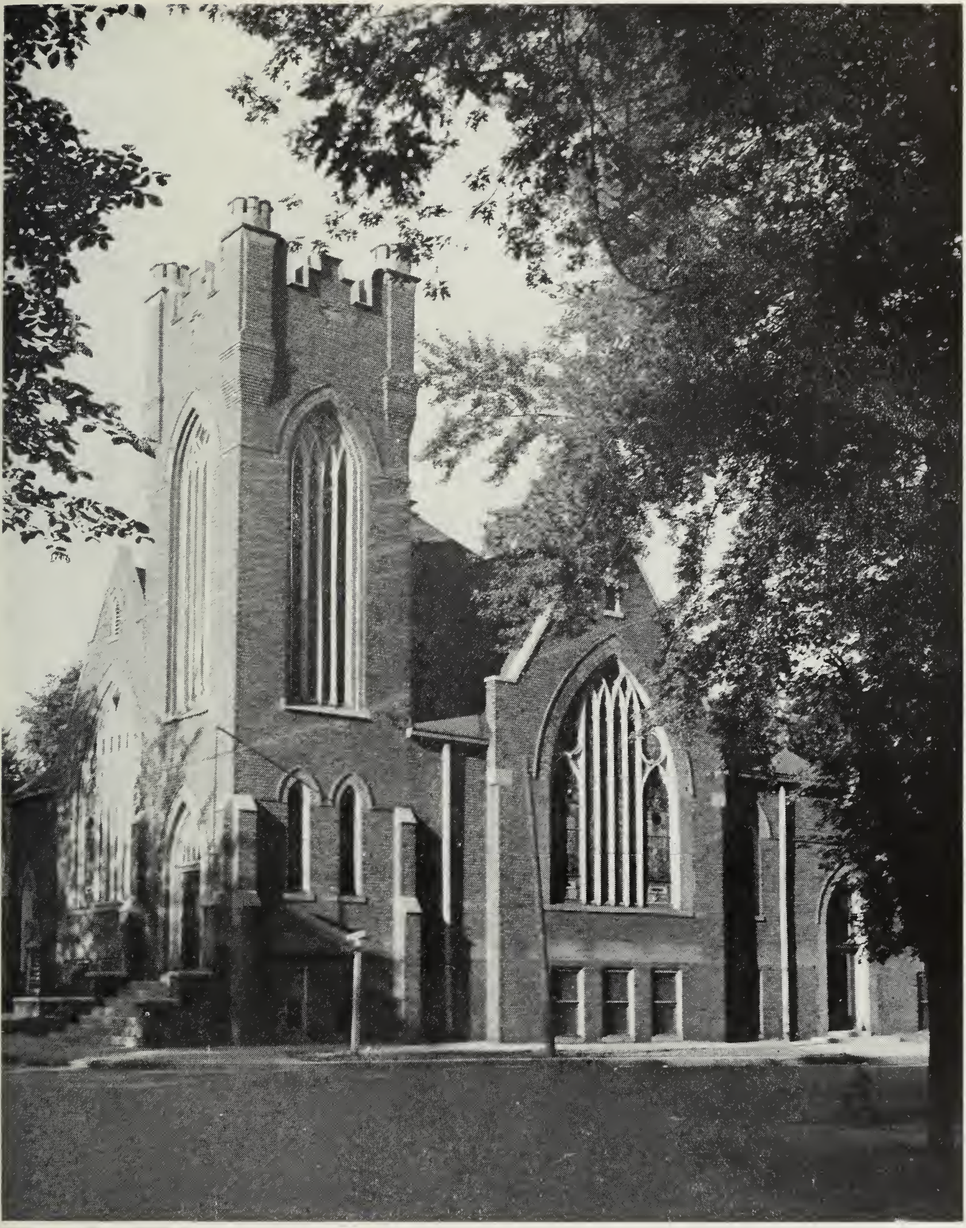
"TRINITY Church, Freeport, may be regarded as the lineal successor to Salem Church, which was started in 1869. When the Salem Church was discontinued a large contingent of the members co-operated in 1893 in the formation of Trinity Church. A church edifice was erected that year at a cost of $5,200. By 1907 the congregation had outgrown its first church home. During the pastorate of Reverend L. C. Schmidt the present edifice, costing $15,000, was dedicated, March 15, 1908, and the parsonage at 210 West Broadway was acquired in 1909." – From "The History of the Illinois Conference."

Trinity Church was a congregation of the United Evangelical Church. In 1922, the United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association were united. The new denomination was named The Evangelical Church.

In 1946, the Evangelical Church and The United Brethren in Christ united into the present denomination, The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Wm E. Grote

Pastor, Trinity Evangelical
United Brethren Church



Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Church

Westview United Brethren Church

609 North Warren Avenue

INVESTIGATION revealed need of a church in the Westview area.

The Reverend E. L. Hartman informed the United Brethren Conference Council of Administration of this need, and on September 11, 1952 the Council voted to go ahead with the project, with Mr. Hartman in charge.

A canvass yielded cash and pledges of $16,465. About $10,000 in labor was donated.

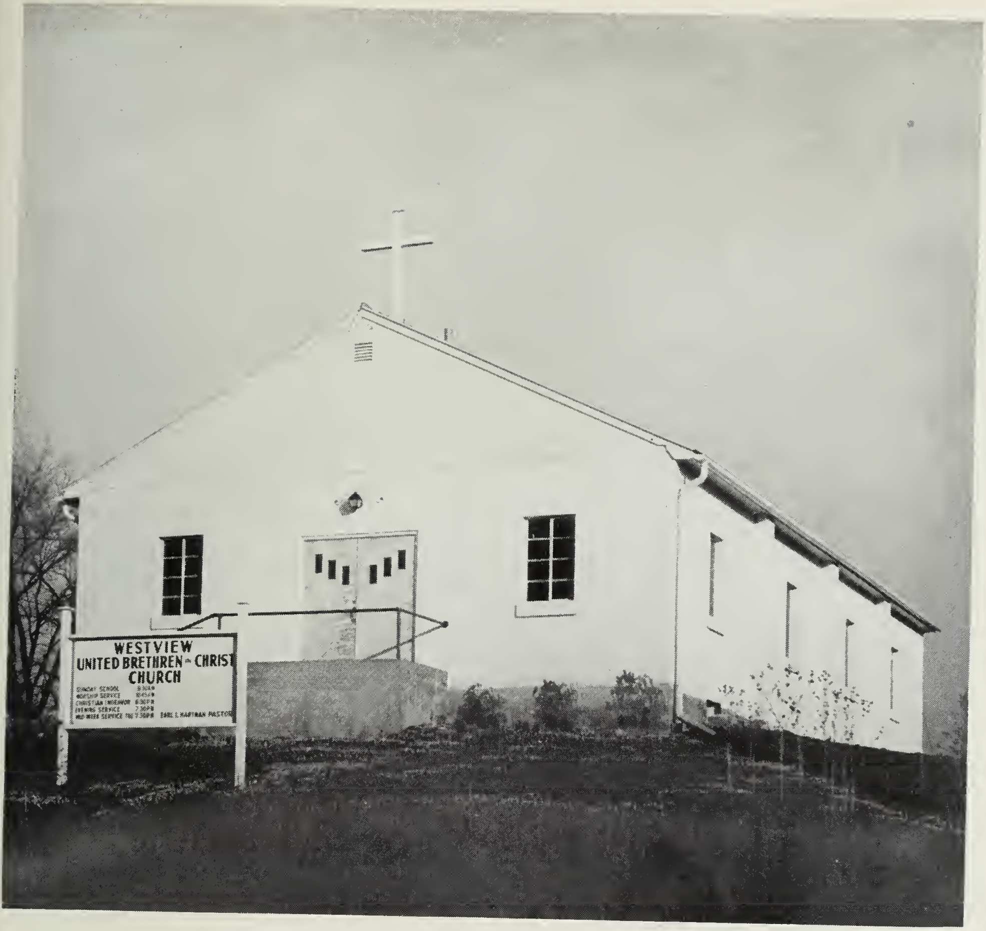
Ground was broken April 29, 1953, the building completed and services begun there October 11, 1953.

The church, free from debt on dedication day, December 6, 1953, cost $16,420, but it has been appraised at $32,000.

The building, 32 x 60 with full basement, is constructed of cement block with white plaster exterior coat. The basement has a modern kitchen, modern plumbing and an oil burning hot air furnace. The first floor contains the auditorium, providing seating for 200, and four classrooms that can be opened into the auditorium.

Earl L Hartman

Pastor, Westview United Brethren Church


WESTVIEW
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
CHURCH

Westview United Brethren in Christ Church

Zion Reformed Church

Chicago Place and East Iroquois Street

THE ACTUAL beginning of Zion lies beyond 1850, when German immigrants settled in this community. Reverend Wagner came to Freeport January 1852. In 1862, the Reverend W. C. Seaman organized the German people into a congregation meeting above the W. Wise drugstore.

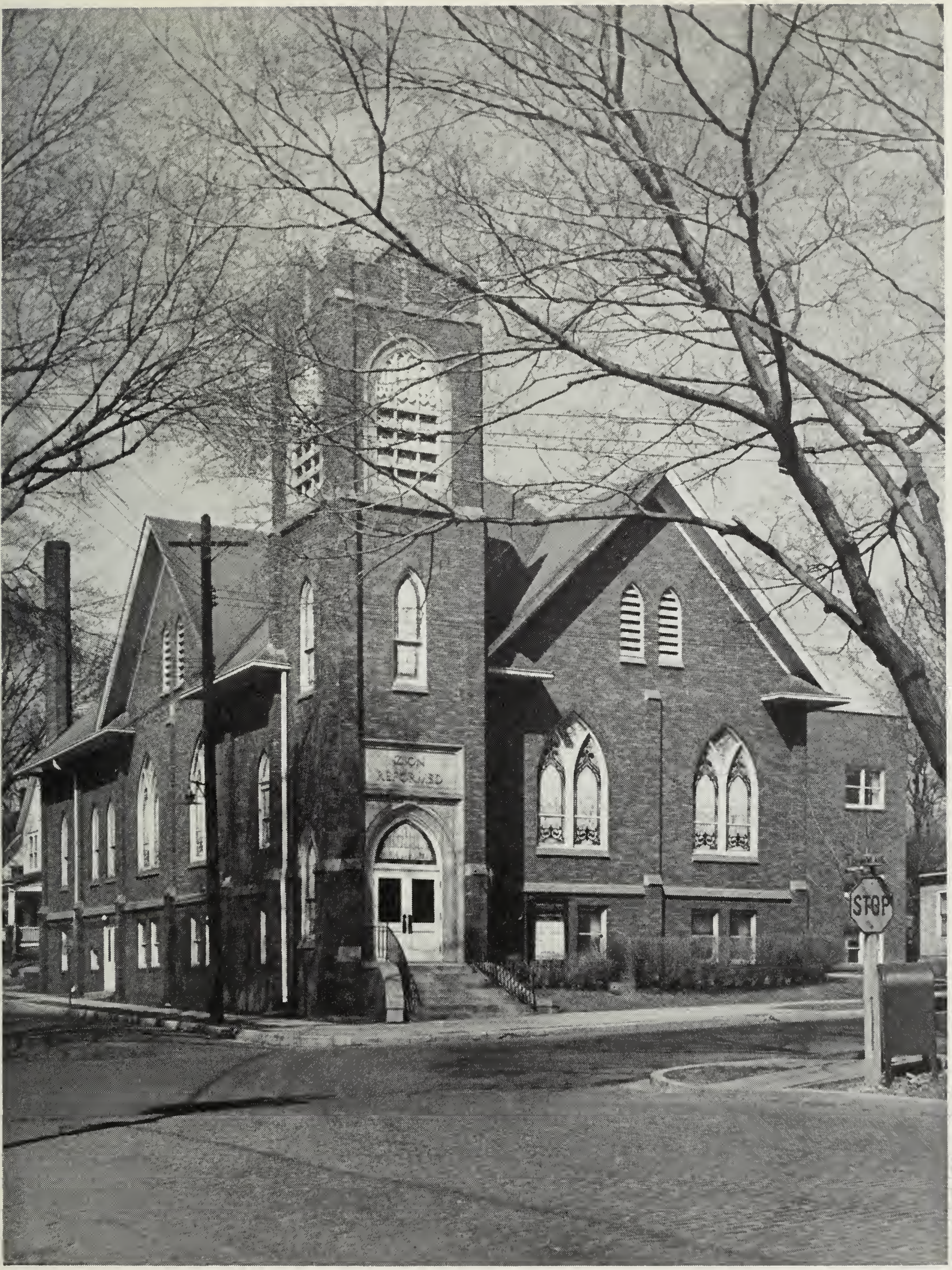
In 1865, Reverend O. Accola reorganized the congregation, the present lot was bought and a frame building erected.

In 1918, Reverend H. Lehman took charge and had a very fruitful ministry. His Sunday school work was excellent. Rev. R. A. Worthman was called to carry on in 1921. It was under his leadership that the present new church building was built, and the membership increased.

Since that time the seating capacity of the church has been doubled and an educational building erected. At present the Zion Reformed Church is too small for its congregation, and a plan for increased seating capacity is being drawn up.

Carl M. Grahl

Pastor, Zion Reformed Church


ZION
REFORMED
STOP

Zion Reformed Church

Church Homes

MORE THAN 50 years ago General Smith D. Atkins, editor of the FREEPORT JOURNAL, closed many of his editorials with these words: "Good old Freeport, city of homes, churches and schools."

The years have shown how right he was, for we now have 15 schools and 38 churches, and most of the homes owned by their occupants.

How well the old Basque proverb fits Freeport, "Its own nest is lovely to every bird."

Only a few of the newer congregations have no church home, but even these are planning edifices of their own.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,
    Y.W.C.A., 514 West Stephenson Street.
First Spiritualist,
    Y.W.C.A., 514 West Stephenson Street.
    Frank Sloggett, president.
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,
    11½ West Stephenson Street.
    Paul L. Miller, company servant.
New Apostolic,
    Y.W.C.A., 514 West Stephenson Street.
    R. H. Scharnweber, pastor.

Robert H Hoenig
Manufacturer

Cathedral Spires

CHAPTER III

CAMERA STUDIES FREEPORT SCHOOLS

What greater or better gift can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth?

—Cicero

Senior High School

Locust and Moseley Streets

APPARENTLY Freeport's first organized high school program was offered in 1847, in a one-story brick building costing $300, paid by public subscription.

In 1852, a new and larger building, known as the old Union School, Pleasant Street and South Galena Avenue, was erected at a cost of $3000. It accommodated both middle grades and high school. In 1878, the high school was moved to a new building, now First Ward School.

A new high school building was built in 1885, on the site of the old Union School. A substantial addition to it was constructed in 1905.

The present high school, on a 25-acre site, cost $720,000 and was completed in 1926. In 1952, the new Junior High School took over the freshman class.

Our three-year Senior High School offers a modern comprehensive program to serve the needs of all Freeport youth.

L. E. Mensenkamp

Principal, Senior High School

Senior High School

Aquin High School

South Galena Avenue

AQUIN High School dates from September 1923, when 30 freshmen representing four local parishes began their secondary school career at St. Mary's under the name of Freeport Catholic Community High School. The school continued there three years. Meanwhile on a six-acre tract on U. S. Route 20, Aquin High School was erected, the cornerstone being laid May 9, 1926, by the late Bishop Peter J. Muldoon of Rockford.

The Tudor Gothic building of red brick with Bedford stone trimmings provides classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria, library and chapel. Enrollment has increased from 30 in 1923 to 230 in 1954.

In this educational institution intellectual development is supplemented by moral and religious training. The superintendent, Monsignor C. F. Conley, and the faculty (Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, two lay women and two men) have been aided by an active Home-School Association and by the co-operation of the priests of the four local Catholic parishes.

Sister Mary Naomi O P.

Superior, Aquin High School

Aquin High School

Junior High School

West Empire Street

THE JUNIOR HIGH school idea first came into being in Freeport in 1926 with the organization of a separate school for all public school students in grades 7 and 8. Mr. S. E. Raines was then superintendent of the Freeport schools.

The school was first housed in the building on South Galena Avenue directly across the street from Embury Methodist Church formerly used as the senior high school.

The site of the new Junior High School, across the street south of the present Senior High School, was purchased in 1935 at a cost of $7500. Construction of the present building, pictured on the opposite page, was begun in 1950. The building, first occupied on January 28, 1952, was constructed at a cost of approximately $1,648,000.

Freeport Junior High School, which now includes grades 7, 8 and 9, is considered one of the outstanding junior high school buildings in the Middle West.

Byron O. Kelly

Principal, Junior High School

Junior High School

Blackhawk School

South Blackhawk Avenue

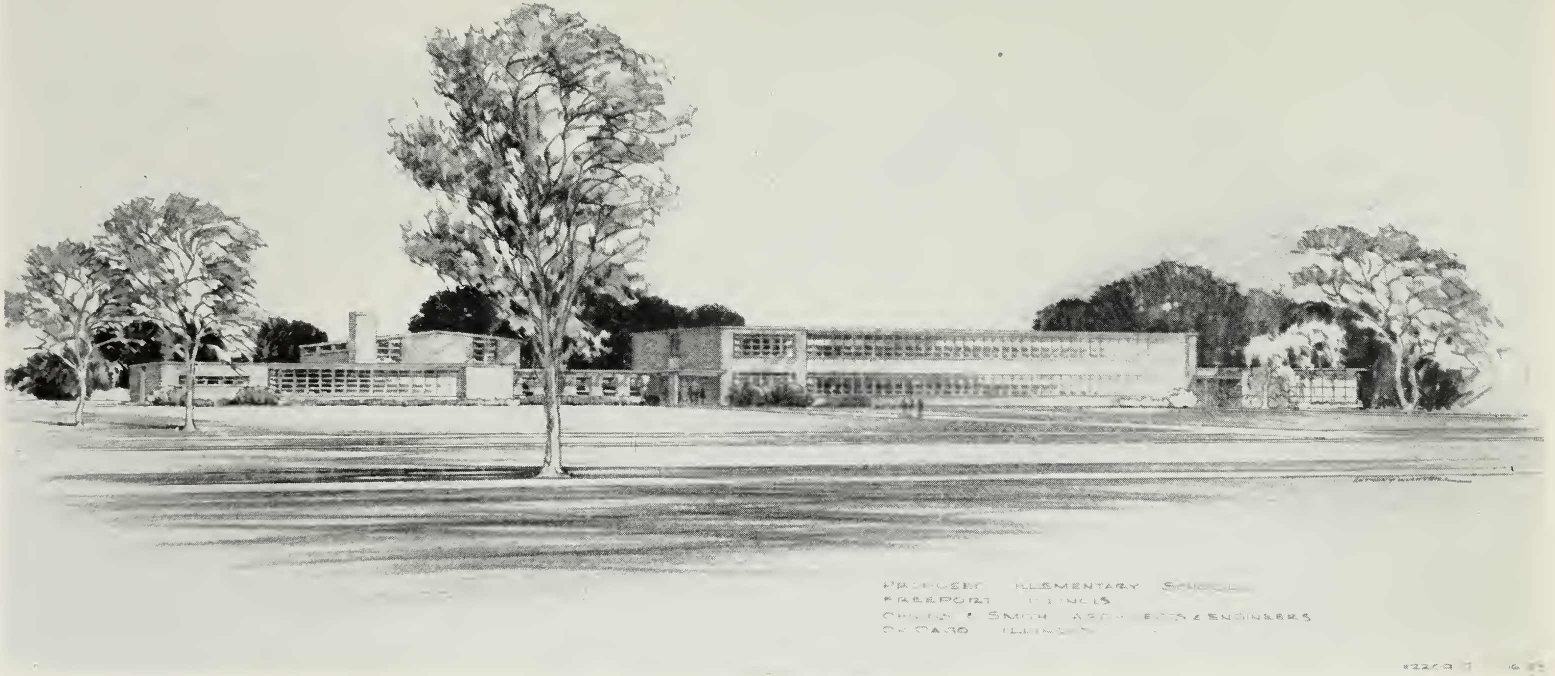
CONSTRUCTION of the new elementary school on South Blackhawk Avenue was begun in the spring of 1954. There are approximately nine acres in the site, over six of which were donated to the school district by Mr. Matt Marvin.

The school is a modern structure, functional in design. There are 14 classrooms including two kindergarten rooms. The other areas consist of a principal's office, nurse's room, two small rooms for special education and conference, toilet rooms on each floor, a teachers' lounge, kitchen, gymnasium and multi-purpose room. These facilities make it possible to carry on an excellent pupil activity and community program.

The multi-purpose room is 28 feet wide by 58 feet long. It has a stage in one end and adjoins the kitchen area. This room may be used for pupil assemblies, audio-visual work, community programs, a cafeteria lunch room or as a display area for various kinds of art exhibits.

B. F. Shafer.

Superintendent of Freeport City Schools


PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FREEPORT ILLINOIS
CHILDS & SMITH ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

Architect's Drawing, Blackhawk School

Center School

609 East Center Street

IN 1905, when Mr. S. E. Raines was city superintendent of schools, citizens of Freeport voted to erect a school on Center Street. This school cost $30,000.

When the two-story structure, containing eight classrooms, was occupied in September 1906 there were six teachers and 258 pupils. One of the teachers was Miss Ida Voigt, who was also the principal. She continued in this position until she resigned in 1938.

Within a few years the school was too small to accommodate the children of the district, so an addition, consisting of two classrooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium, was built. In 1915, as the school enrollment continued to increase, space was partitioned off the west side of the auditorium to make an eleventh classroom.

At the present time Center has a faculty of 12, and 334 boys and girls are enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Helen M. King

Principal, Center Street School

Center School

Empire School

West Empire Street

EMPIRE Elementary School, located on a 7½-acre tract in the southwest part of Freeport, opened September 8, 1952. The three-story brick and stone building, with equipment, cost $418,814. It is adapted to the contour of the land, which is gently sloping to the east.

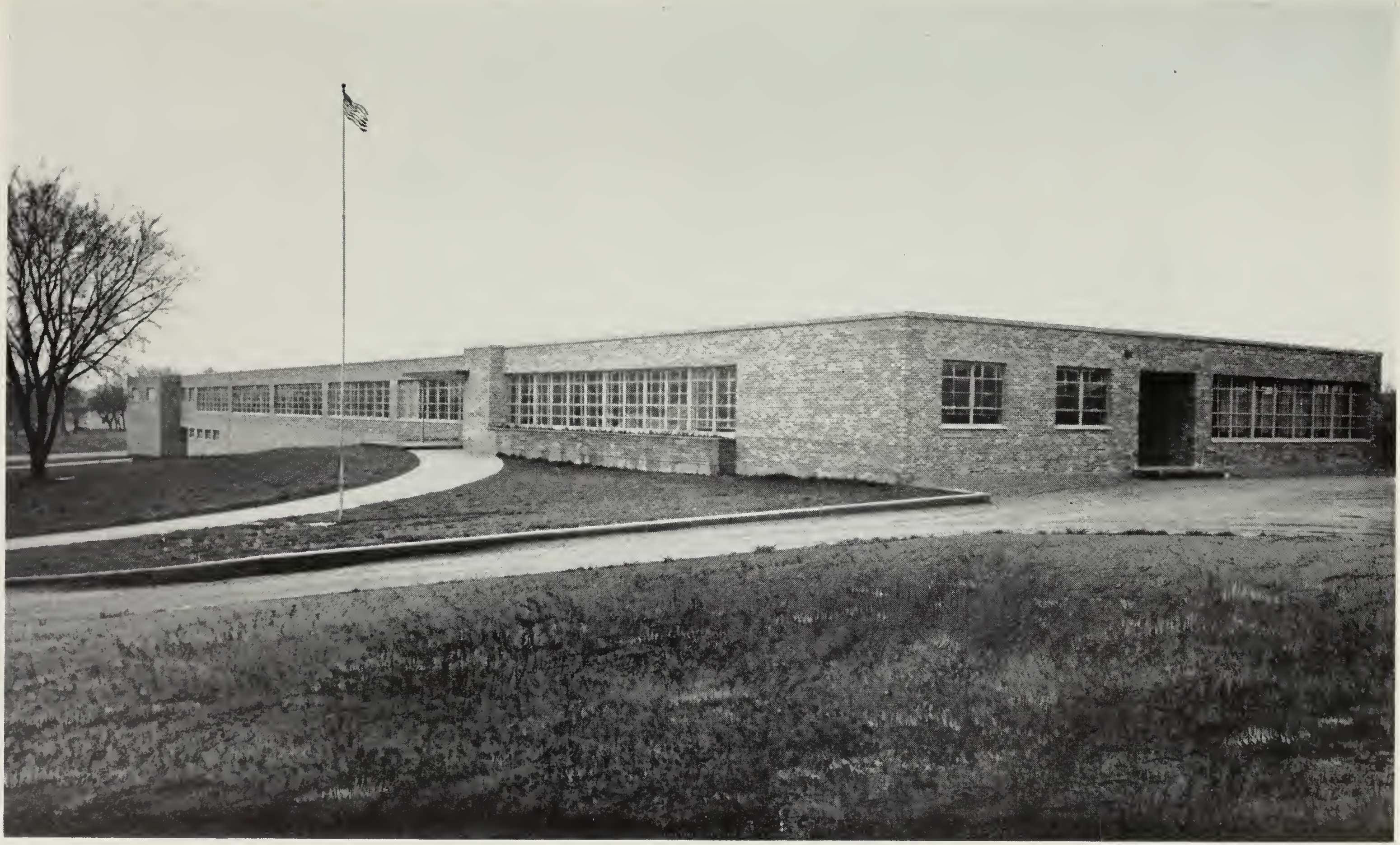
The playground at the rear is terraced to three levels. There is an area of all-weather surface playground and a fenced-in play area for kindergarten children.

Empire School has 12 classrooms, including kindergarten, sight saving, physically handicapped, speech correction and educable mentally handicapped rooms. In addition, there is a general purpose room for school and community activities, a gymnasium, principal's office, nurse's office, a work area and a teachers' room.

This new school is very functional and adequately serves the present needs of this newly developed area. The total enrollment is 310. Children in the special classes come from all parts of the city.

Curtis F. Meyers

Principal, Empire School



Empire School

First Ward School

326 West Exchange Street

ON JULY 7, 1877, a board composed of J. M. Bailey, Jacob Krohn and Frederic Bartlett selected lots one and two of block 66 of the original town of Freeport on which to erect a high school. The price was $2000. In 1878 the new school, corner Cherry and Bridge (now Exchange) Streets, was completed at a cost of $14,000.

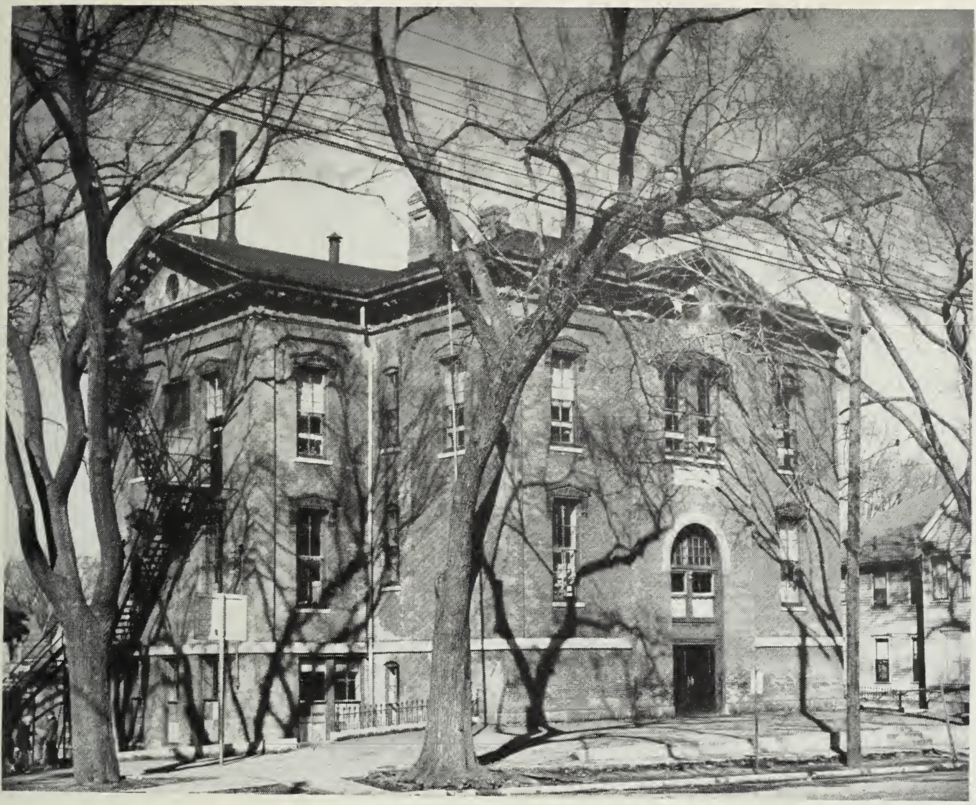
By that time homes were spreading out Stephenson Street and the town was growing to the north, so after seven years the high school was moved to a new location. The old building became First Ward School for elementary grades. It apparently was known under a different name for a time, as the 1884-1885 Directory of Freeport lists "Knowlton School — Exchange — N. E. —Corner of Cherry."

In the 1890's this building was remodeled.

A modern program of elementary education is still being offered at First Ward School to an enrollment of about 250 pupils.

Clara L. Killion

Retired School Principal



First Ward School

Harlem School

121 North Harlem Avenue

THE CORNERSTONE for Harlem Avenue Elementary School, 121 North Harlem Avenue, was laid in 1911, with Mr. Wilson, from Chicago, as architect. The building was completed in 1912. The area included at the time the school was built was known as Harlem Township.

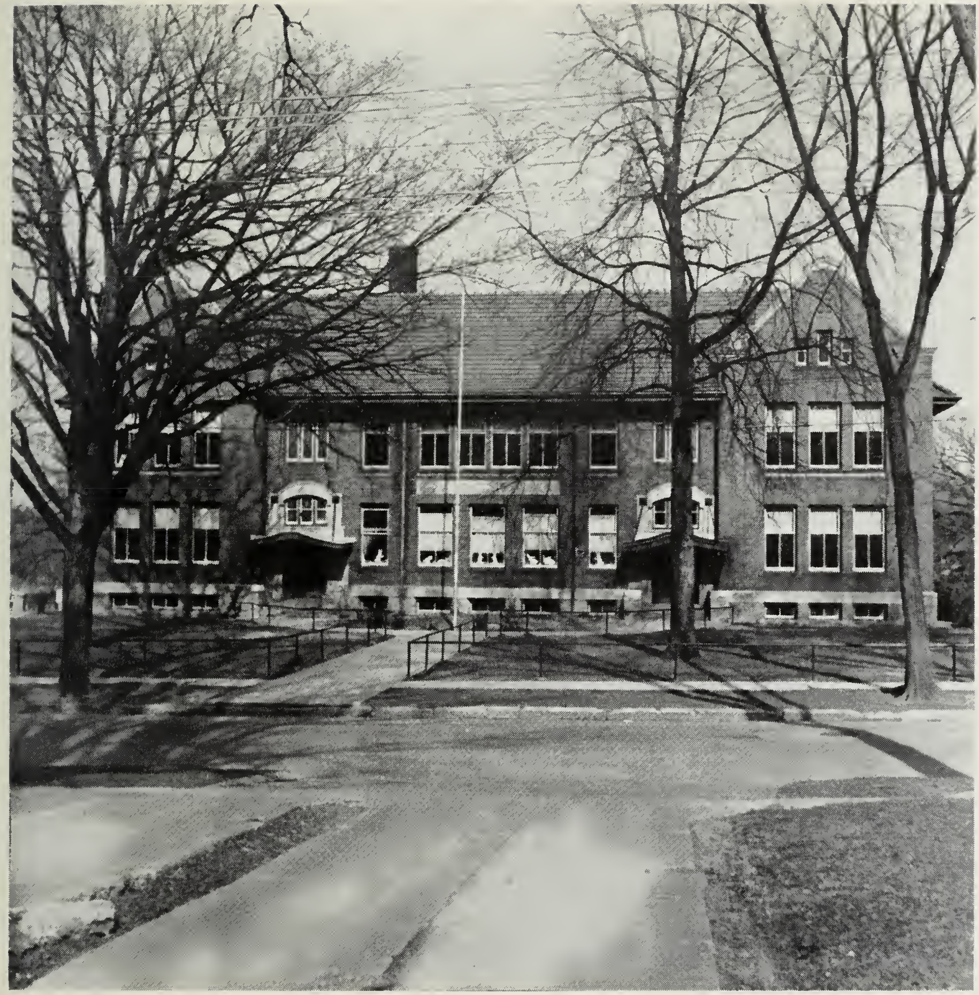
Plans were made at one time to cut a road through the playground at the rear of the school, but citizens protested and the one and a half acre playground was spared and is still in use today.

Harlem School contains 13 rooms and a gymnasium and this year serves 332 children.

Marks of distinction easily recognizable to the passer-by are the spacious front lawn, divided sidewalks on either side of the centrally-located flagpole, and the canopy over each front entrance. The school has the appearance of a homey, comfortable building to serve both children and adults of the district.

Thomas Kelly

Principal, Harlem School



Harlem School

John W. Henney School

511 South Liberty Avenue

IN AUGUST 1865, a special election was held at which it was decided to purchase lots in Wright and Purinton addition of Freeport on which to erect a school.

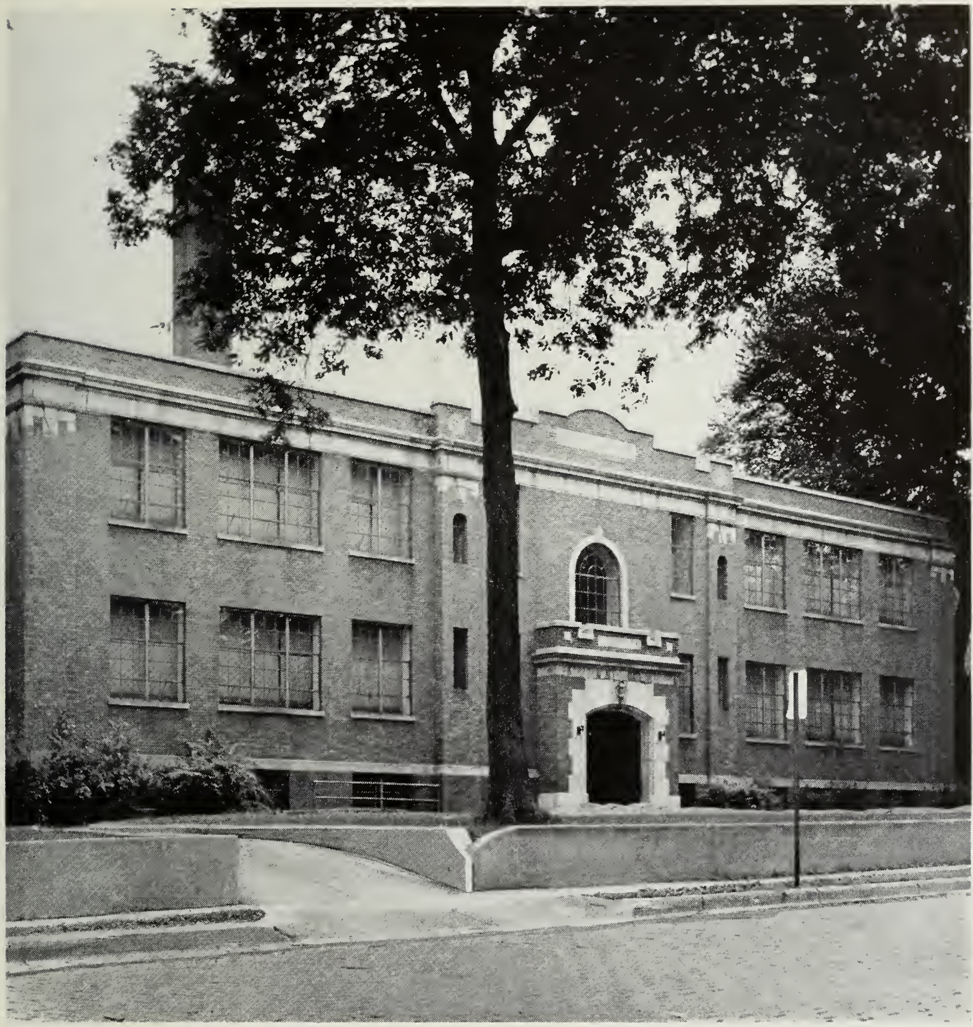
IN 1866, a three-story brick building was completed at the corner of Liberty and Williams (now Iroquois) Streets at a cost of $17,000. At that time this was known as Wright School, but later it became known as Third Ward School.

November 20, 1926, Third Ward School was the scene of a disastrous fire. However the walls were left standing in good condition and they were used in the construction of the present building. When completed the structure was practically new.

It was at this time that the name Third Ward School was changed to John W. Henney School, in memory of a worthy resident of that district and a one-time member of the Freeport Board of Education.

Florence E. Carroll

Retired School Principal



John W. Henney School

Immanuel Lutheran School

514 South Chicago Avenue

SEPTEMBER 2, 1877, a building which was to serve as a church and day school was dedicated on the property secured at South Chicago Avenue and West Pleasant Street. In 1886 a second church was dedicated, and the first church now became the school building. A basement was built high enough for a second classroom.

In 1923, it became apparent that a new school building was needed. The present school building was then constructed at a cost of over $70,000. It contains four large classrooms, a library, auditorium, bowling alleys, kitchen, recreation rooms, stage and motion picture facilities.

At present the Immanuel Lutheran Day School has three teachers and an enrollment of 103 pupils.

In 1944, the Redeemer Lutheran Church, the sister congregation here in Freeport, decided to make Immanuel Lutheran School their school also.

W. F. Schroeder

Principal, Immanuel Lutheran School

Immanuel Lutheran School

Lincoln School

773 West Lincoln Boulevard

IN JANUARY 1868, the present site was purchased by the board of education for $1200. The school, erected at a cost of $12,465, was occupied in the fall of 1868 and named Lincoln School.

In 1899, the original building was replaced by the present ten-room structure. For 20 years only eight of these rooms were used, but as the west and southwest sections of the city were built up it was necessary to open the two remaining rooms. Grades one through eight were taught until 1926, when the Junior High School was organized. Since that time the ten rooms have been crowded with only the first six grades.

In recent years two basement kindergartens and a P.T.A. assembly room have been equipped. The latter also serves as the visual aids room.

The site, on a quiet street in 1868, is today at the intersection of a boulevard and a busy state highway.

Marie L. Freday

Retired School Principal

Lincoln School

St. Joseph's School

South Galena Avenue and Washington Place

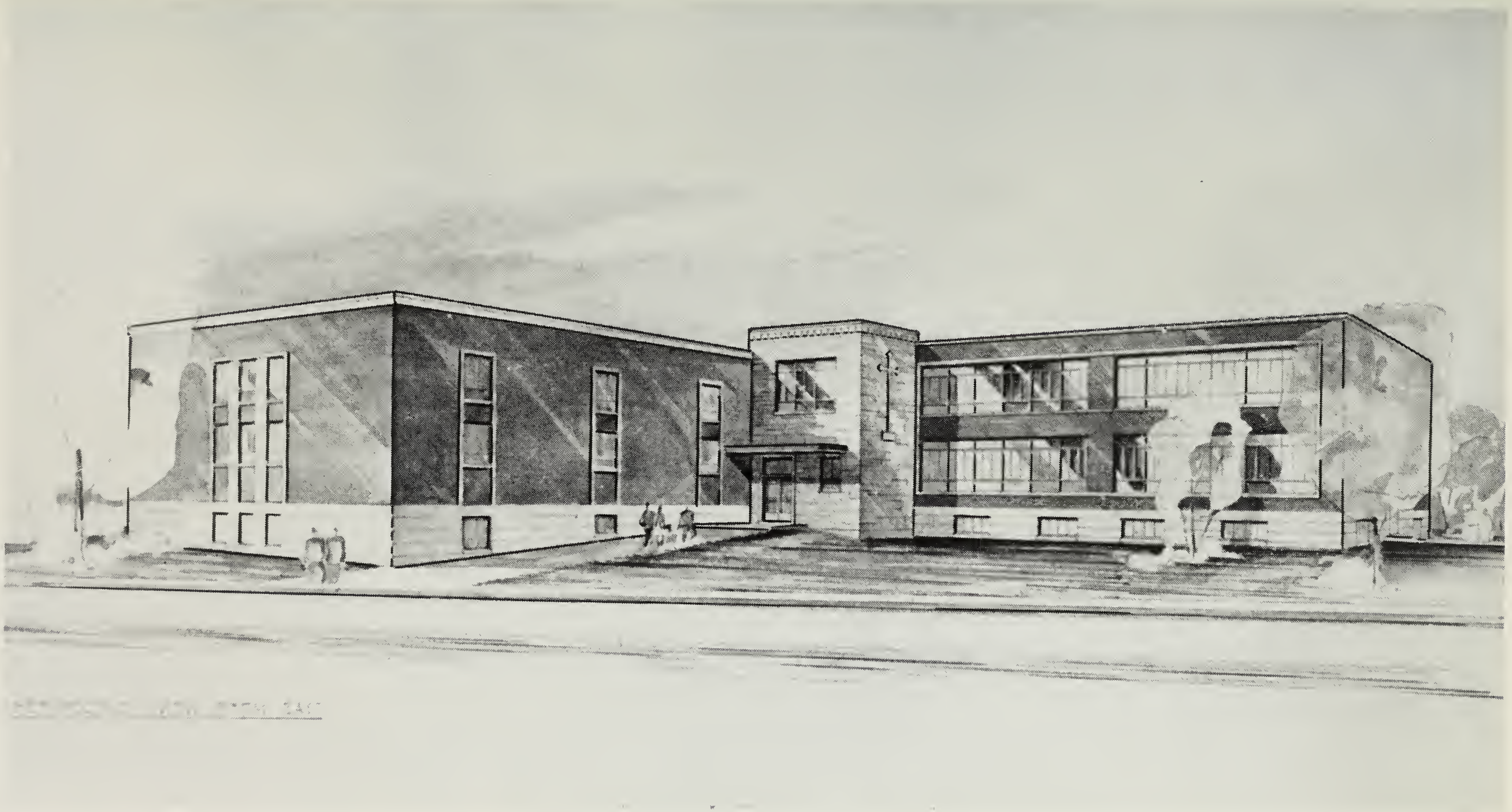
CONTRACTS WERE signed with the Willis Construction Company for the new $325,000 St. Joseph's School on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, 1954. There was a ground-breaking ceremony on Monday, March 22, after which the Gund-Graham Company of Freeport began excavating for the new school. Hubbard and Hyland of Rockford are the architects.

The school, a two-story fireproof building, is located east of St. Joseph's Church, facing South Galena Avenue, on the site of the old Junior High School. It contains eight large classrooms, a gymnasium, music room, library, audio-visual and social rooms, cafeteria, kitchen, faculty lounge, nurse's room and boiler room.

The exterior of the building is of variegated buff weatherproof brick, to blend with the church and the Winona stone trim. The architecture, while modern, harmonizes with the church and the surrounding buildings and adds beauty to the prominent location.

Sister Mary Lenore

Superior, St. Joseph's School



Architect's Drawing, St. Joseph's School

St. Mary's School

605 South State Avenue

IN 1855, during Reverend Ferdinand Kalvelage's pastorate, a parish school was established for the German-speaking portion of St. Mary's Parish, but it was discontinued in 1859 when Father Kalvelage was transferred to Chicago.

Ten years later a large two-story brick building at the site of the present building was purchased and the interior remodeled for classroom purposes. In August 1873, Reverend Maurice Stack, pastor, opened the school, with Dominican Sisters as teachers.

In 1891, Reverend Wm. A. Horan, after completing the present church, turned his attention to renovation of the school and added a hall seating 500 people. Again, in 1897, this energetic pastor enlarged the school, adding a third story with extra classrooms and a recreation center.

There are at present eight classrooms, library and two social rooms, besides the large hall with stage and dressing rooms. For several years past the average school attendance has been about 225 pupils.

Sister M. Rebecca, O.P.

Superior, St. Mary's School

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School

Taylor Park School

East Stephenson Street

THE OPENING of the ultramodern Taylor Park School in January 1953 marked the closing of the East Side School built in 1893.

The site for the East Freeport School was purchased from Judge J. S. Cochran more than 60 years ago. The original school was a two-story red brick structure with two finished rooms. In 1908, the building was remodeled and three of the available rooms were used. In 1912, the upper three rooms were put into use, inside plumbing installed, the attic converted into a gymnasium, and the name changed to East Side School.

In 60 years the enrollment increased from 40 to 300 pupils, and the need for a new school was evident.

Taylor Park School has ten classrooms, including a kindergarten, also a multi-purpose room, kitchen area, two special help rooms, principal's office, gymnasium, teachers' room and nurse's room.

Alta E. Kruse was teacher and principal from 1911 to 1949.

Alta E. Kruse

Retired Principal, East Side School

Taylor Park School

Union School

1205 South Chicago Avenue

SCHOOL was first held on Union Street in October 1896, when the school board rented one room from a German Reformed Church to house the second grade.

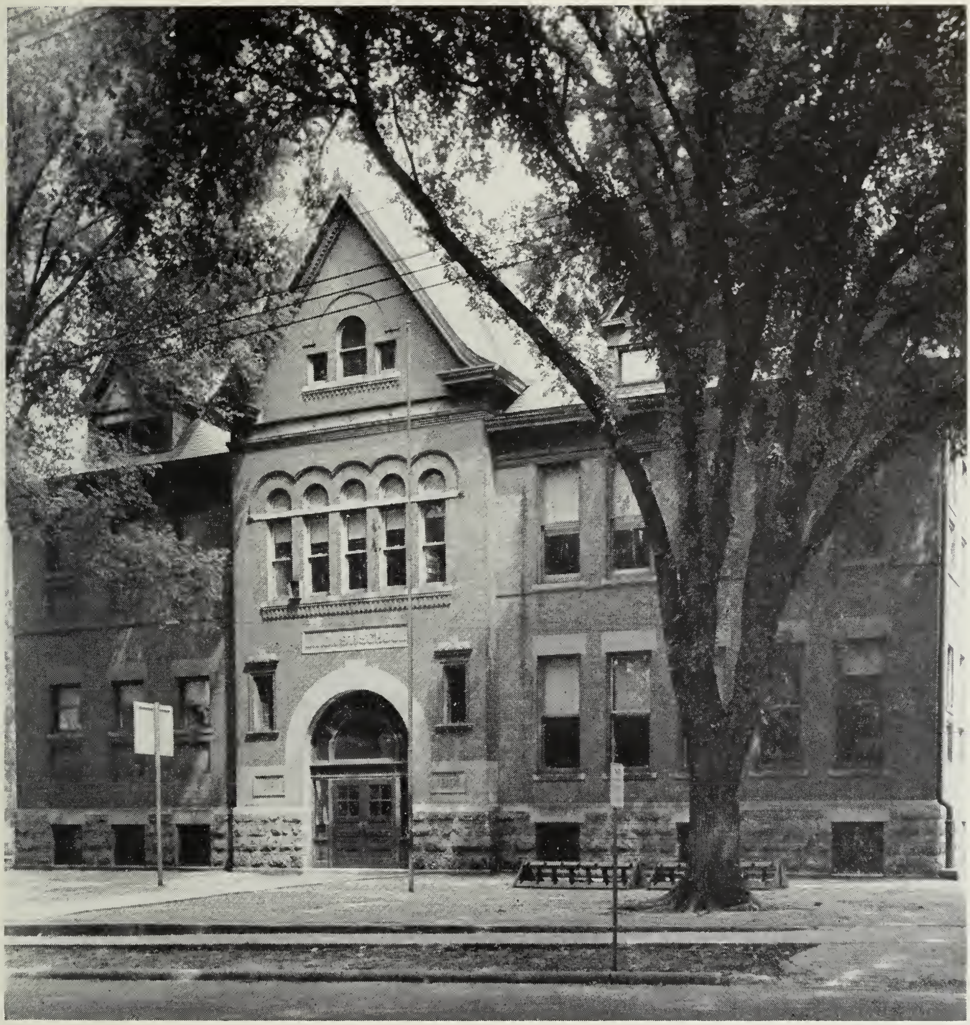
March 1897, L. L. Hime, Freeport, was authorized to build the present building, designed by Reeves & Baillie, Peoria architects. It cost $16,260, excluding heating, plumbing and ventilation. M. L. Parker, Freeport, supplied heating, plumbing and ventilation for $3688.90. The walls are Freeport brick and the foundation Freeport stone.

School opened September 1897, with seven grades. Miss Sarah Barnes was appointed principal and 7th grade teacher. Other teachers were: Mrs. L. E. Schofield, 6th grade; Mrs. L. Raber, 5th grade; Mrs. Lizzie Flanagan, 4th grade; Miss Nettie Potter, 3rd grade; Miss Nona Riordan, 2nd grade; Miss Helen Hill, 1st grade.

The eighth grade was added September 1898. September 1926, a junior high school was formed, making all elementary schools a 1-6 plan.

Gordon E. Eade

Principal, Union School



Union School

CHAPTER IV

CAMERA STUDIES

FREEPORT ELEEMOSYNARY INSTITUTIONS

> To pity distress is but human; to
> relieve it is Godlike.
>
> — Horace Mann

Deaconess Hospital

420 South Harlem Avenue

A BRICK residence built by Colonel Schaffer, and later sold to the Honorable Horatius Burchard, was remodeled into Globe Hospital under the direction of Dr. W. W. Krape, president of the Knights of the Globe. It opened July 1, 1902.

The Deaconess Society of the Evangelical Church assumed control March 1, 1924, when it became the Evangelical Deaconess Hospital. In 1938, the Deaconess Society relinquished its control to a community representative board of 15 trustees, and it became Deaconess Hospital, a nonprofit institution.

In 1926 and 1951, additions were built with funds contributed by the community, making it a 150-bed and 25-bassinet, fireproof hospital, with the most modern facilities, approved by the National Joint Commission of Accreditation.

The School of Nursing, a 2-year school from 1902 to 1924, a 2½-year school from 1924 to 1927, is now a 3-year school affiliated with Cook County School of Nursing and approved by state and national accrediting organizations.

Leonard C. Ferguson

President, Board of Trustees, Deaconess Hospital

Deaconess Hospital

East Side Recreation Center

633 East Crocker Street

THE EAST SIDE Recreation Center, Adelbert and Crocker Streets, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Koenig, was opened and officially dedicated December 9, 1949. It is a one-story fireproof building 120 x 60 feet, of concrete block construction, simply designed to be most adaptable to youth activity programs. It has a large gymnasium, with boiler room, shower and locker rooms at one end and kitchen and social room at the other end.

The building was deeded to the Y.M.C.A. and was named the East Side Y. A board of directors was appointed to supervise the program and manage the building. After a year of operation the board petitioned the Community Chest for membership and was accepted. The name of the building was then changed to East Side Recreation Center.

A trained director is in charge of the Center, and it is operated as an interracial, non-sectarian organization.

Thos. R. Pfisterer

Superintendent of Stephenson County Schools

East Side Recreation Center

Girl Scouts

GIRL SCOUTING started in Freeport in 1927 with an Embury Church troop under the leadership of Miss Jessie Clark. By 1928 there were eight troops, and the Freeport Girl Scout Council was organized, with Mrs. R. D. Hunt as commissioner.

The Freeport Council provided troop leaders and an active part in the world's largest international organization for girls, the World Association of Girl Scouts. An established camp and a day camp were held each year. In 1948, Camp Hideaway, 30 wooded acres on Yellow Creek, was purchased.

This Council served Freeport until 1952, when the Jane Addams Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. was formed, with Mrs. Charles H. Davis as president. This Council serves 92 troops in 18 communities in Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside Counties. The executive office is in Freeport, with an executive director in charge.

Recently a camp of 190 acres, with an all-year cabin, near Hanover has been purchased.

Mrs. F. J. Kirkman

Former President, Freeport Council of Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Camp

Junior Educational Recreational Center
(JERC)

301 West Main Street

THE Freeport Junior Educational Recreational Center (JERC) was organized October 11, 1943. The first chairman was Maurice Smith. On January 4, 1945, Mrs. Don Smith was elected president, Mrs. Walter Kerr treasurer, and Mrs. Edward Hoag secretary. The first meeting place was in the Rice building on West Main Street.

The idea of this organization is to provide a well directed meeting place for young people of high school age, and with the help of many civic-minded Freeport people programs are planned along the lines of recreation and social education. Here our young people meet their friends, have their own dances, play ping pong and billiards; and there is a soda fountain where ice cream sundaes and pop are sold at very little profit.

A junior board of directors, together with the senior board, manages the operation of the JERC, which now occupies quarters in the former Odd Fellows Temple.

E G McCulloch

President, Junior Educational Recreational Center

Junior Educational Recreational Center

King's Daughters' Children's Home

410 North Harlem Avenue

IN 1907, the King's Daughters took over the Settlement Home here. As the work grew the need was felt for a permanent home.

A. J. Stukenberg was asked to organize a drive to raise funds for this project. The result was the King's Daughters' Children's Home at 410 North Harlem Avenue. The cornerstone was laid July 24, 1927, and open house was held April 17, 1928. The last $10,000 indebtedness on the building was cleared by the late W. T. Rawleigh.

The Home is maintained by the King's Daughters, with the assistance of a trust fund, gifts from the community, small fees paid by the parents of children living in the Home, and income from property donated by the late Mrs. Minnie B. Rawleigh.

The capacity of the Home is 28 children—14 boys and 14 girls. It is under state supervision and is conducted as much like a private home as possible.

Mrs. Esther L. Seikel.

Secretary and Treasurer, King's Daughters'
Children's Home Trust Fund Committee

King's Daughters' Children's Home

Parkview Home

South Globe Avenue

PARKVIEW Home, located on ten acres of land just outside the city limits at the southwestern corner of Freeport, is a private residential home for people over 65. It has no connection with any group or denomination, and is a community enterprise of the people of Freeport and vicinity.

Begun through the initiative and substantial bequests of the late C. H. Little and Joseph Emmert, Parkview Home was completed and has since been maintained in large part by the generosity and co-operation of a large number of Freeport citizens.

The main building of the home is an attractive brick edifice, finished in 1926. The dining hall and kitchen are in a separate wing. The grounds about the building are landscaped, and adjoining are the garden and orchard.

Besides the men's board, a women's auxiliary board has done much to make the home pleasant and livable.

Donald L. Breed

Editor, Freeport Journal-Standard
and President, Board of Trustees, Parkview Home

Parkview Home

St. Francis Hospital

1209 South Walnut Avenue

IN 1888, a typhoid fever epidemic raged in Freeport. Few nurses were available, and two Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Sister M. Francis and Sister M. Jerome, came to Freeport to nurse the sick in their homes. After the epidemic subsided the people wanted the sisters to remain and build a hospital. The Reverend Clemens Kalvelage, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, appealed to the people of the community to provide the Sisters with a home.

February 12, 1890, St. Francis Hospital was formally opened. During the first year 69 patients were cared for there. For many years the Sisters continued to care for the sick in the homes.

The number of patients in the hospital steadily increased, so in 1904 a new addition was opened for service. Another wing was opened on January 1, 1926. The hospital has a capacity of 135 beds and can be compared with the best in northern Illinois.

Sister M. Virginia

Administrator, St. Francis Hospital

St. Francis Hospital

St. Vincent's Home for Children
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged

659 East Jefferson Street

ST. VINCENT'S Home for Children was founded in 1896, by the late Msgr. Clemens Kalvelage in co-operation with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, on South Walnut Avenue. The Home was transferred to the present site in 1905. The first section of the present buildings was built in 1912.

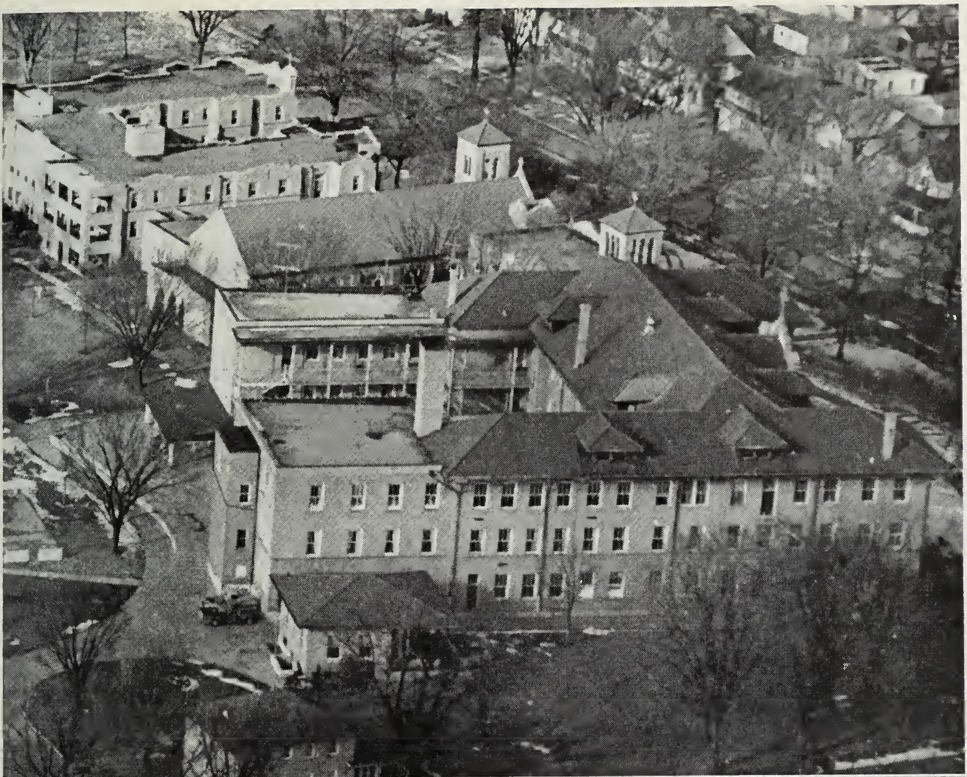
In 1913, a home for the aged was established on St. Vincent's grounds under the patronage of St. Joseph.

The buildings shown were nearly all erected between 1929 and 1931, under the direction of Bishop Edward F. Hoban. These include a gymnasium, heating plant, vocational arts department, administration building, chapel, a complete unit for St. Joseph's Home and a building for the care of infants.

Care is provided for some 225 children in St. Vincent's and 90 people in St. Joseph's Home, both under direction of a superintendent appointed by the bishop.

The present bishop of this diocese is the Most Reverend Raymond P. Hillinger, D. D.

Former Superintendent, St. Vincent's Home for Children and
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged



ST VINCENT CHAPEL
SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME

St.Vincent's Home for Children
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged

U. S. Grant Council
Boy Scouts of America

BOY SCOUTING came to this area in 1911, one year after it was organized nationally. It became a first class council in 1928, with headquarters in Freeport and A. J. Stukenberg as the first president.

In 1936, the Council reached its present geographical size, with jurisdiction over Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties in Illinois, and Grant, Green and Lafayette Counties in Wisconsin.

The Council year-round camp and training center, Canyon Camp, was given to the Scouts in 1936 by the Robert F. Koenigs. In 1948, through the efforts of A. J. Stukenberg and others, the camp was enlarged to the present 255 acres.

The local Boy Scout Council serves boys from eight through eighteen years and strives to build character and train them in citizenship. Their oath, "On my honor I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country, etc.," has been exemplified during this time.

Donald D Hull

Scout Executive, U. S. Grant Council, Boy Scouts of America

Above: Aerial View
Right: Headquarters Building
Below: Canoeing on the Lake

Canyon Camp

Young Men's Christian Association

206 South Galena Avenue

THE Young Men's Christian Association in Freeport was organized in 1868, by the Stephenson County Sunday School Association at the suggestion of Dwight L. Moody, who had spoken here.

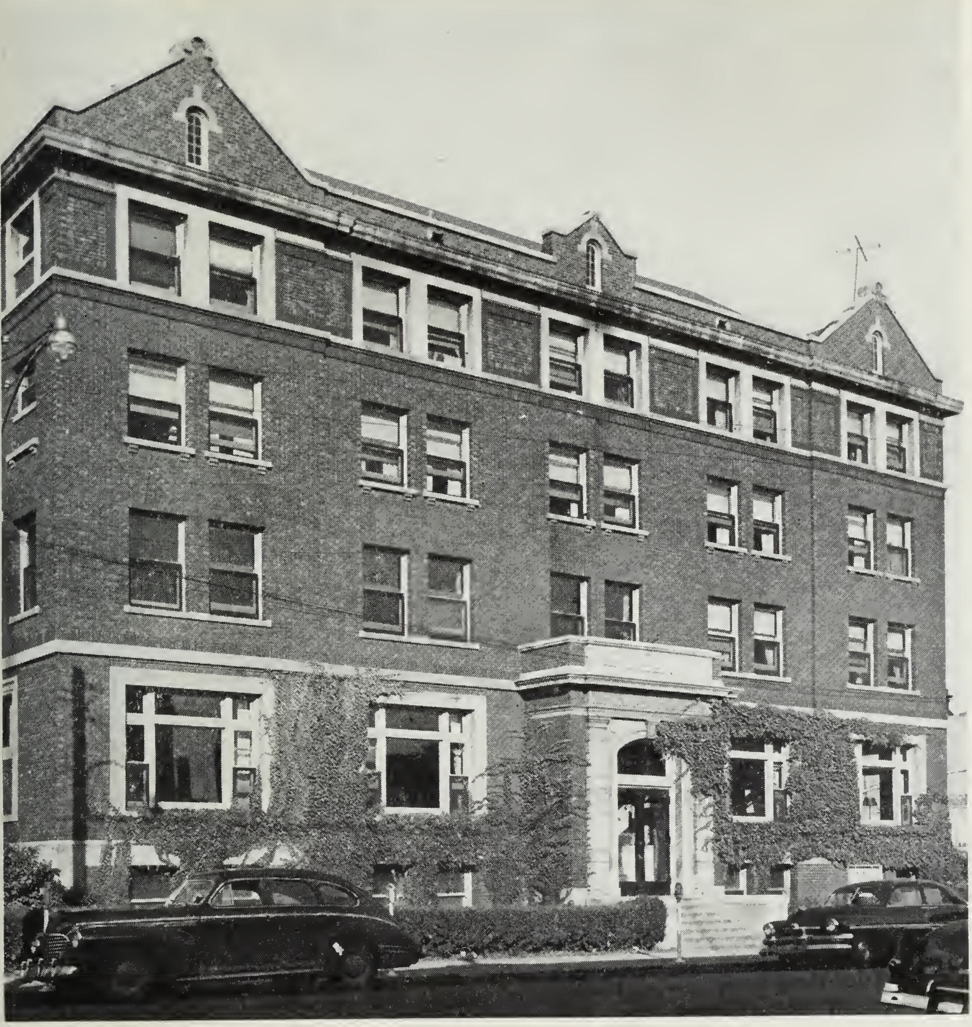
The first meeting place was in rented rooms in the Maynard Block, opposite the courthouse. The next rooms were at the southeast corner of Van Buren and Stephenson streets. These burned in 1881, and quarters were secured over Emmert's drug store. In 1888, the cornerstone was laid for a Y.M.C.A. building, now the Telephone building. The present Y.M.C.A. building was dedicated in January 1916.

The purpose of the organization is, "a world-wide fellowship united by common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of building Christian personality and a Christian society."

The average membership in the Freeport Association is between 500 and 600. Boys' memberships begin at age eight.

The Freeport Y.M.C.A. operates two summer camps, in Crested Butte, Colorado, and Lakewood, Wisconsin.

Retired Y. M. C. A. Secretary



Y. M. C. A. Building

Young Women's Christian Association

514 West Stephenson Street

AUTUMN of 1917 saw the opening of the old Freeport Club town house as a Young Women's Christian Association for Freeport, after months of time and great effort by the feminine element of the city. Since then this building has been in constant use.

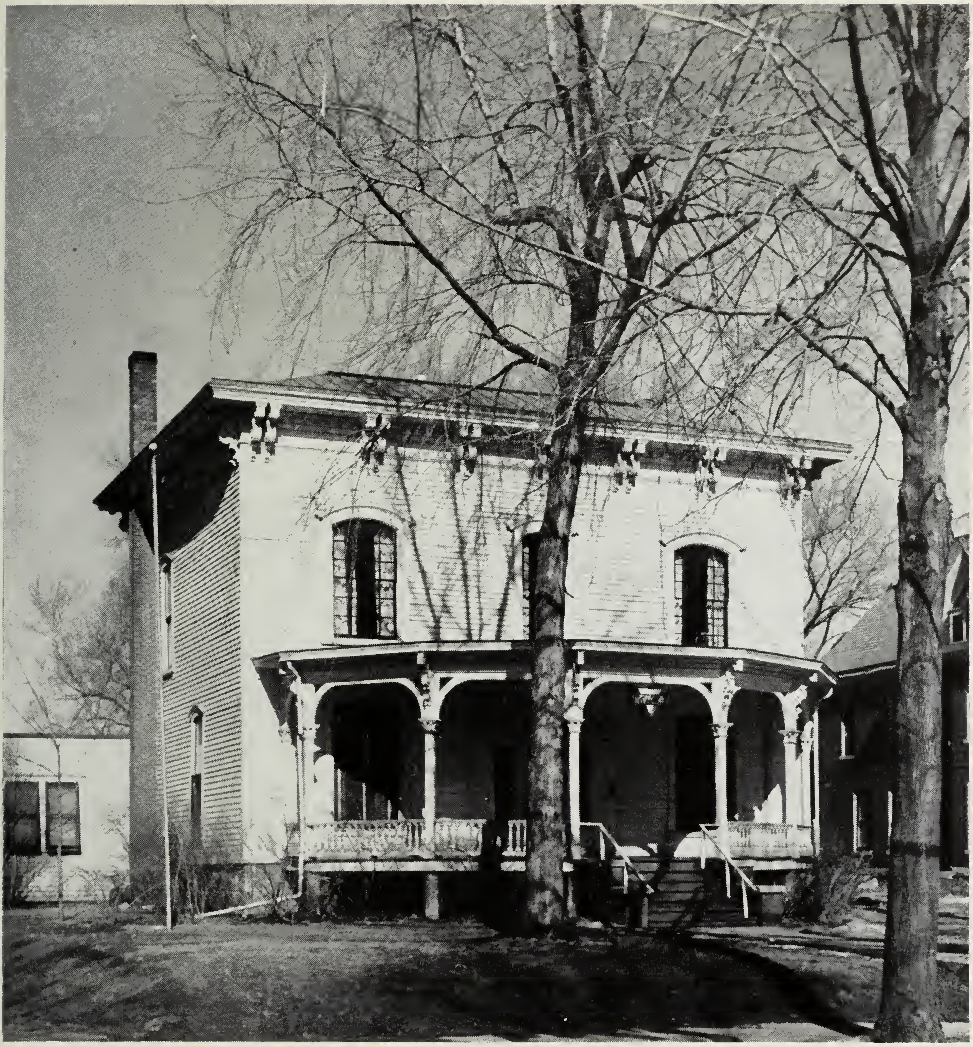
During its 37 years' existence members and friends of the Association have provided a four-lane bowling alley, an outside shuffleboard court, a high wire fence, fireplace and council ring and many fine furnishings for the interior.

The Y.W.C.A. has a board of directors of 21 women, a board of trustees of five members and a small but efficient professional staff. There is a program for every age girl or woman, beginning with the Stay-at-Home Camp program for girls between eight and fourteen and extending through to the Golden Age Club for older women and men.

The building is also used by many outside organizations in the community.

Katherine A. Seeley

Past President, Freeport Y. W. C. A.



Y. W. C. A.

CHAPTER V

CAMERA STUDIES
FREEPORT FRATERNAL
ORGANIZATIONS BUILDINGS

FROM the beginnings of man **the principles of fraternity** have been kept alive and formed the foundation of human advancement. When we study the Holy Scriptures we learn that this slow human advancement was not blind fate . . . not for mere power . . . not accident . . . but was of divine necessity. It was God, the Father of men, working to realize the brotherhood of man, which is the purpose of His will. For if God is the Father, then fraternity is not fiction, but a need of divine nature. Its mission is to teach men to obey the will of God.

—Dr. Allen H. Miller

Eagles' Hall

301 South Van Buren Avenue

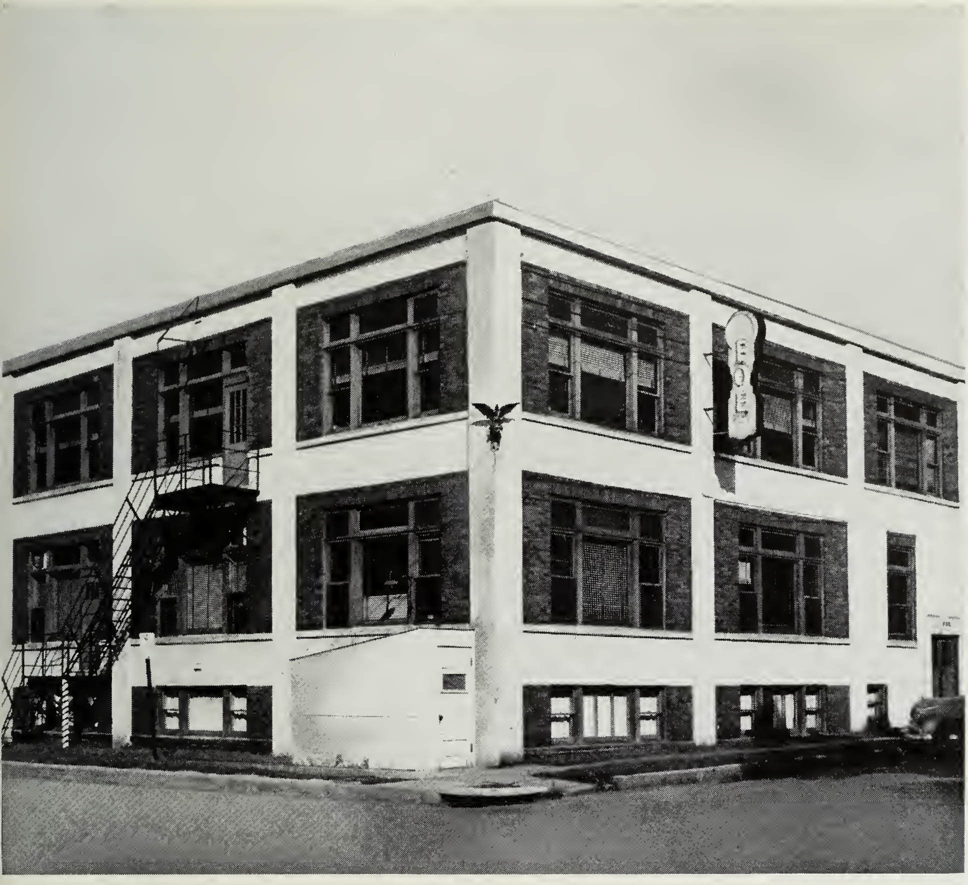
FREEPORT Aerie No. 679, Fraternal Order of Eagles, was instituted on the 17th day of April 1904. Charter signers were L. H. Burrell, F. A. Read, Charles Franz, Dr. L. G. Voigt, Dr. A. J. Poling, John Bauscher and many other professional and business men of Freeport.

The first home was located on the third floor of the Seitz building, Mechanic and Galena (now State and Main) Streets. As the organization grew in membership it always strived for better lodge quarters. For a time it was located in the Knowlton Bank building, moving from there to the Fry block on Stephenson Street. Later it was located on East Exchange Street, until 1929, at which time it purchased the three-floor fireproof building it now occupies at 301 South Van Buren Avenue.

The principles of the order are Liberty, Truth, Justice and Equality. It is a benefit-paying fraternity dedicated to humanity.

Karl Feller

Machinist and Trustee, Freeport Aerie No. 679,
Fraternal Order of Eagles



Eagles' Hall

Elks' Club

608 West Stephenson Street

IN AUGUST 1900, a dispensation was granted by Grand Exalted Ruler Jerome B. Fisher to H. E. Fry, E. E. Hill and O. L. Hyde to organize a lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Freeport. On July 25, 1901, a charter was granted by Grand Exalted Ruler Charles E. Picket to Freeport Lodge No. 617 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks after it was signed by 29 members.

The first Exalted Ruler to head the Lodge was Robert P. Eckert. The first club rooms were located at 107½ West Stephenson Street, now occupied by the Knights of Columbus. On August 1, 1913, the Lodge moved to the Weiss building, 208 West Stephenson Street.

August 1, 1929, the Lodge purchased the home of Dr. Karl F. Snyder, at 608 West Stephenson Street, and after considerable remodeling, it took possession of the property.

The present membership is 600.

Franklin J Becker

Secretary, B.P.O.E. No. 617

Elks' Club

Germania of Freeport

115 East Main Street

THE GERMANIA SOCIETY, organized in 1877, existed many years before that, in the shape of two organizations—the Freeport Saengerbund and the Freeport Turnverein.

In 1855, the Freeport Saengerbund (a singing organization) was formed. The first public event fostered by the Saengerbund was a concert held on Easter Monday, March 24, 1856.

In 1856, the Freeport Turnverein (an athletic organization) was organized.

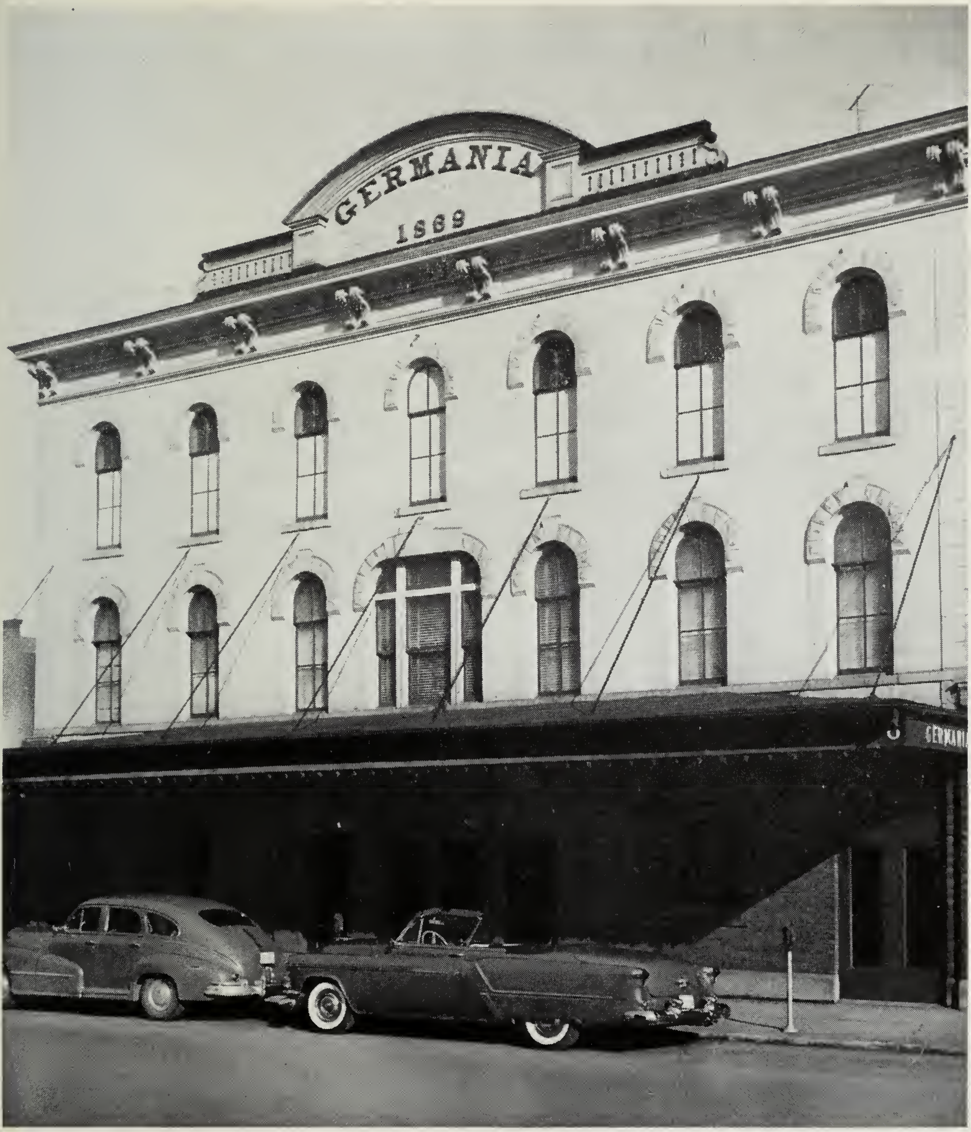
The membership lists of both clubs rapidly grew to large proportions, and before long nearly every influential German citizen of Freeport belonged to one society or the other. The Saengerbund and Turnverein members worked hand in hand for many years, with the result that the two organizations merged in 1877 under the name of the Germania Society.

The Germania club building was originally called Turner Hall. In 1882, it was entirely rebuilt and named Germania Hall.

The Freeport Germania Society is one of the oldest and most successful social organizations in the Midwest.

Chas P. Guenther

Retired Pharmacist


GERMANIA
1869
GERMANIA

Germania of Freeport

Knights of Columbus

107½ West Stephenson Street

IT WAS during the winter of 1901-1902 that John R. Brown of Rockford interested a group of Catholic men of Freeport in organizing the Freeport Council of the Knights of Columbus.

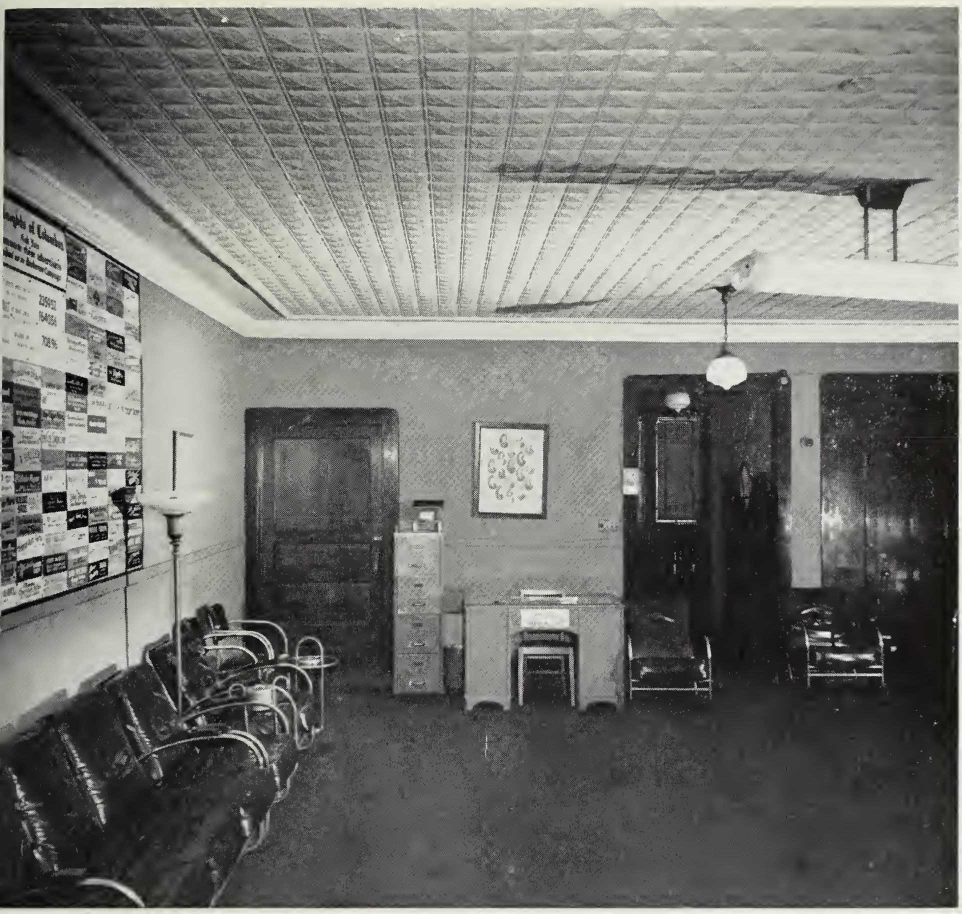
On March 23, 1902, some 500 Knights assembled from Rockford, Chicago, Janesville, Dubuque, Davenport and Rock Island to confer degrees on the 57 charter members of Freeport and 50 from the visiting Councils.

George G. McCarthy was the first Grand Knight. Through his leadership and that of his successors the Council has become a religious and civic organization highly respected in the area.

The Council chambers and club rooms have been maintained in five locations, the present being pictured, at 107½ West Stephenson Street, in the heart of the city.

Robert E Schneider

Chaplain, Freeport Council Knights of Columbus



Knights of Columbus Club Room

Masonic Temple

305 West Stephenson Street

THE MASONIC TEMPLE, owned by Freeport Consistory, houses all the activities of the craft. Consistory Masonry began its work in Freeport in 1869. Excelsior Lodge was chartered in 1851, Evergreen Lodge in 1855, Freeport Chapter in 1854, Freeport Commandery in 1857, Freeport Council in 1868, Order of Eastern Star in 1895, Capernaum Shrine W.S.J. in 1904.

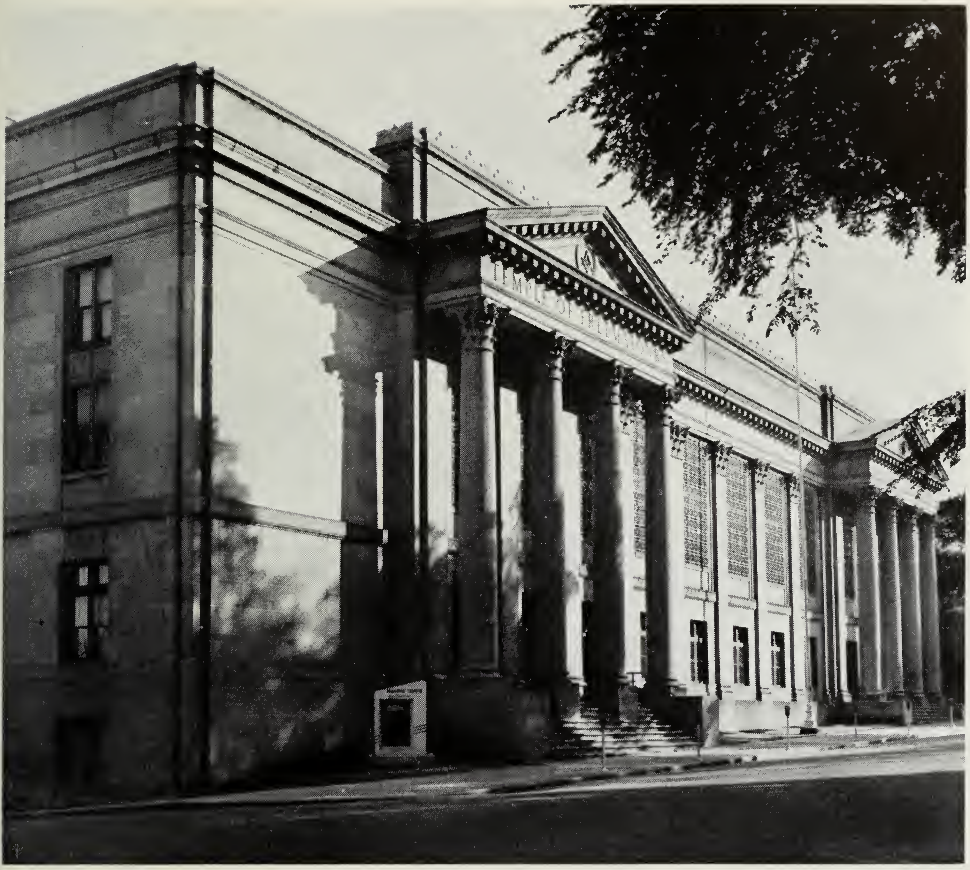
Originally, all Masonic gatherings were held in rented quarters, mostly in the Fry building, Stephenson Street and Chicago Avenue. In 1904, the first Masonic Temple in Freeport was erected. This building served until 1928, when the present Masonic Temple was erected on the same site.

This Temple, a beautiful specimen of Corinthian architecture, has ample room to serve for many years. Its practical value and architectural beauty are the answers to the dreams and sacrifices of many Masonic patriarchs in the Valley of Freeport.

The Consistory auditorium, which seats 1224, has a stage with the largest proscenium arch in Illinois outside Chicago.

Harry H. Stahl

Manufacturer and Ex-Mayor of Freeport



Masonic Temple

Loyal Order of Moose

105 East Main Street

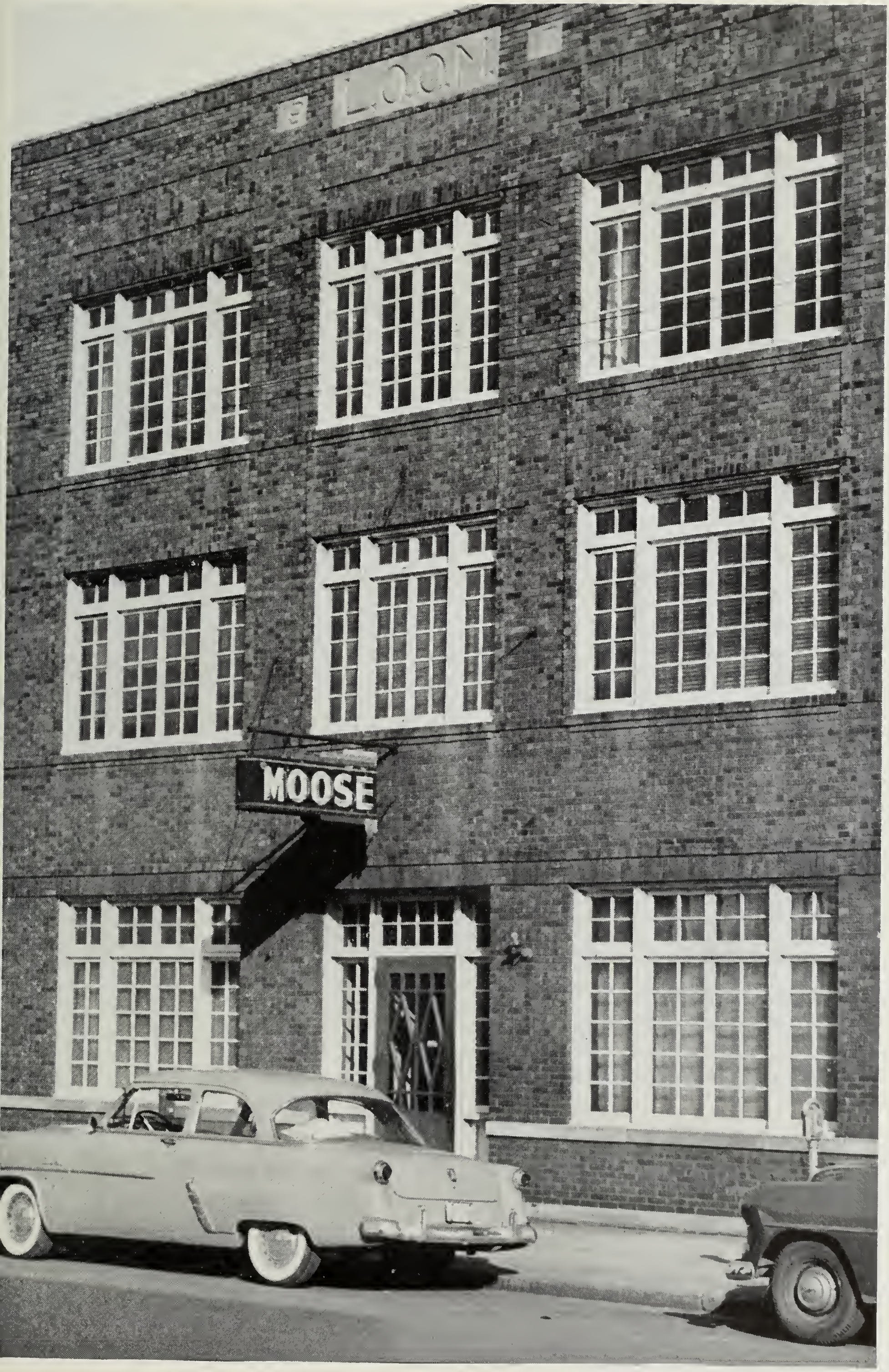
THE LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE in Freeport was organized by Dr. E. E. Shelly and Robert Wright. The first meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Temple. In 1917, the three-story brick building shown on the opposite page was erected at a cost of approximately $20,000.

The home lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose is located at Mooseheart, Illinois. Qualified children of departed Moose members find a happy home, loving care and ideal family life in the world-famous "Child City" of Mooseheart. Every year an average of 1000 boys and girls are cared for there. Mothers also may come with their children.

There, in 150 modern buildings on 1200 acres of carefully tended grounds along the beautiful Fox River west of Chicago, young Mooseheart citizens are prepared for life with a complete high school education and training in one or more useful vocations. The standards of good American living are traditional at Mooseheart.

E. E. Shelly M. D.

Freeport Physician



Loyal Order of Moose Building

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

208 West Stephenson Street

ON July 15, 1847, when the city of Freeport was a mere handful of houses and stores, the Grand Lodge of Illinois granted a charter for the organization of a lodge in Freeport, to be known as Winneshiek Lodge No. 30.

In 1857, a large number of German citizens, members of Winneshiek Lodge, organized Freeport Lodge No. 239, where their mother tongue could be used in the meetings. These lodges continued to grow, and in April 1884, Stephenson Lodge No. 61 was instituted.

Odd Fellows have always played an important role in the fraternal life of Freeport, a sharer in all the vicissitudes of the latter's growth.

Today there are one subordinate lodge, one encampment branch and two ladies' auxiliaries—Freeport Lodge No. 30, Western Star Encampment No. 25, Busy Bee Illinois Rebekah Lodge No. 138 and Western Star Ladies' Auxiliary No. 10—which stand for the best and most advanced in social, fraternal and charitable circles.

George Edler

Ex-Mayor of Freeport and Past Noble Grand,
Freeport Lodge No. 30, Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Independent Order of Odd Fellows' Lodge Room

Veterans' Memorial Home

1100 West Galena Avenue

FREEPORT American Legion Post No. 139 received its charter August 10, 1920. The charter pledged the post to make its community a better place, by devotion to mutual helpfulness.

At first, members met in various halls, but on May 21, 1934, plans were made to purchase a home. Six months later the first Post home, at 324 West Main Street, was ready, the result of gifts from merchants and friends and volunteer labor of Legion members.

In 1945, a campaign was started for a new Memorial Home; and in June 1950, the home illustrated was ready for occupancy at 1100 West Galena Avenue. This building cost about $130,000; equipment $38,000.

In January 1953, the Legion and its Auxiliary and the Amvets and their Auxiliary agreed to share the home, and the name was changed to Veterans' Memorial Home.

The Forty and Eight is affiliated with the American Legion Post.

D H Bokhof

Physician and Chaplain, Freeport
American Legion Post No. 139

Veterans' Memorial Home

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 998

Shawnee Street and Eighteenth Avenue

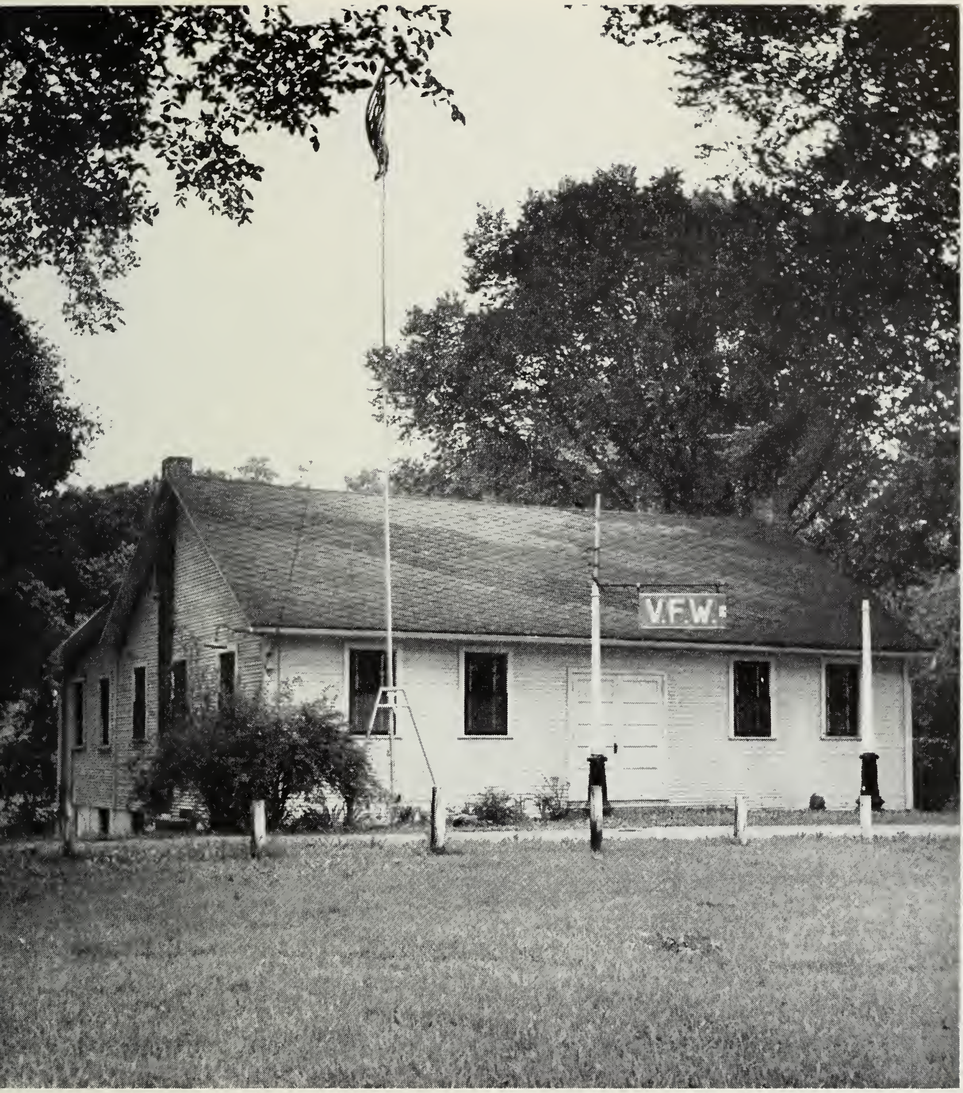
THE FIRST Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Freeport was formed in 1922. Charter was issued January 18, 1923, to A. F. Moseley Post, named in honor of Captain Arthur F. Moseley, who lost his life in World War I. Charles B. Kling was the first commander. In 1946, the name was changed to Moseley-Loewe Post, to honor a deceased World War II veteran also.

In 1929, a building fund was created under Commander J. F. Lynch. A 5-acre tract along the Pecatonica River, at Eighteenth Avenue and Shawnee Street, was purchased in 1931 and a club house erected. Commander Gus Hildebrandt presided at the first meeting in the new home, November 26, 1931. In 1939, during Earl Toelle's administration, an addition was built, and the building remains as illustrated.

The club room, utility room, kitchen, etc., are in the basement. The main floor is used for meetings, dances and banquets.

J F Lynch

Post Historian



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building

Willie John Smith Post 9226
Veterans of Foreign Wars

711 East Orin Street

IN THE YEAR 1947, A. C. Humphrey was elected the first post commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9226, which was organized under the direction of J. F. Lynch.

Post 9226 was named the Willie John Smith Post in memory of a Freeport soldier killed during World War II. Smith was also one of the first soldiers whose body was returned to this community.

The Post maintains a canteen operated by club members as a social club for members and their friends. It is conducted as a non-profit club with national affiliation. New officers are elected annually.

The Willie John Smith Post has grown from a charter membership of ten to two-thirds of the qualified veterans in the community.

Hartsell Shirley Sr.

Chaplain, Willie John Smith Post 9226
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Willie John Smith Post 9226 Veterans of Foreign Wars

CHAPTER VI

CAMERA STUDIES

FREEPORT CIVIC BUILDINGS

> Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.
>
> —Henry Clay

City Hall

West Stephenson Street and North Walnut Avenue

ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1898, a contract was let for the building of the present city hall. The building was to be a mixture of Colonial and Tuscan style architecture and was to be faced with Portage stone and pressed brick.

The cornerstone of the building, which cost $50,000 completed, was laid on Memorial Day 1899. Mayor at the time was Albert Baumgarten.

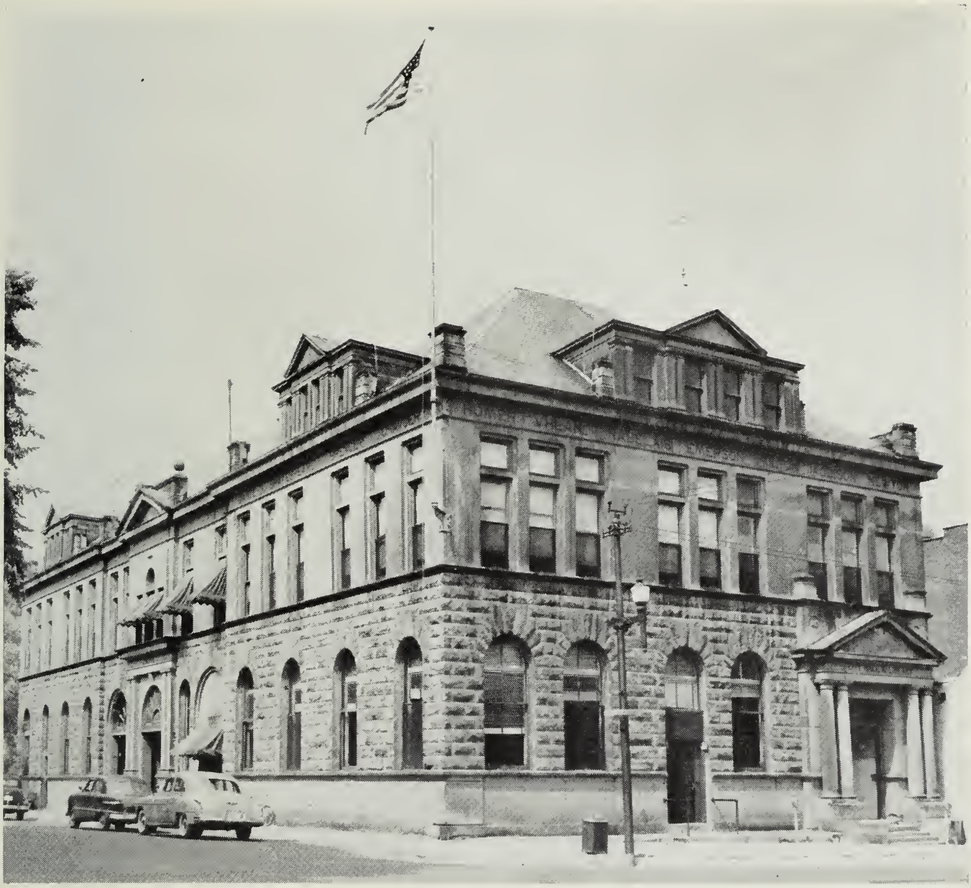
The city hall was designed by D. S. Shureman and built by W. J. McAlpin of Dixon, Illinois.

Architect Shureman was miffed when told that his name would not appear on the building. He then arranged for the builders to chisel on the structure the names of great literary people. When the first letters of these names are combined they spell out "D. S. Shureman."

The city hall houses the water, police and fire departments on the first floor, and city offices on the second.

Glen F. Kunkle

Mayor of Freeport



City Hall

Stephenson County Courthouse

West Stephenson Street and North Galena Avenue

STEPHENSON County's first courthouse was completed in 1838. It was two-story, made from walnut logs from local timbers. It was said to surpass in size and elegance any building west of Detroit and north of St. Louis.

The first session of court was held August 27, 1839. Judge Daniel Stone presided.

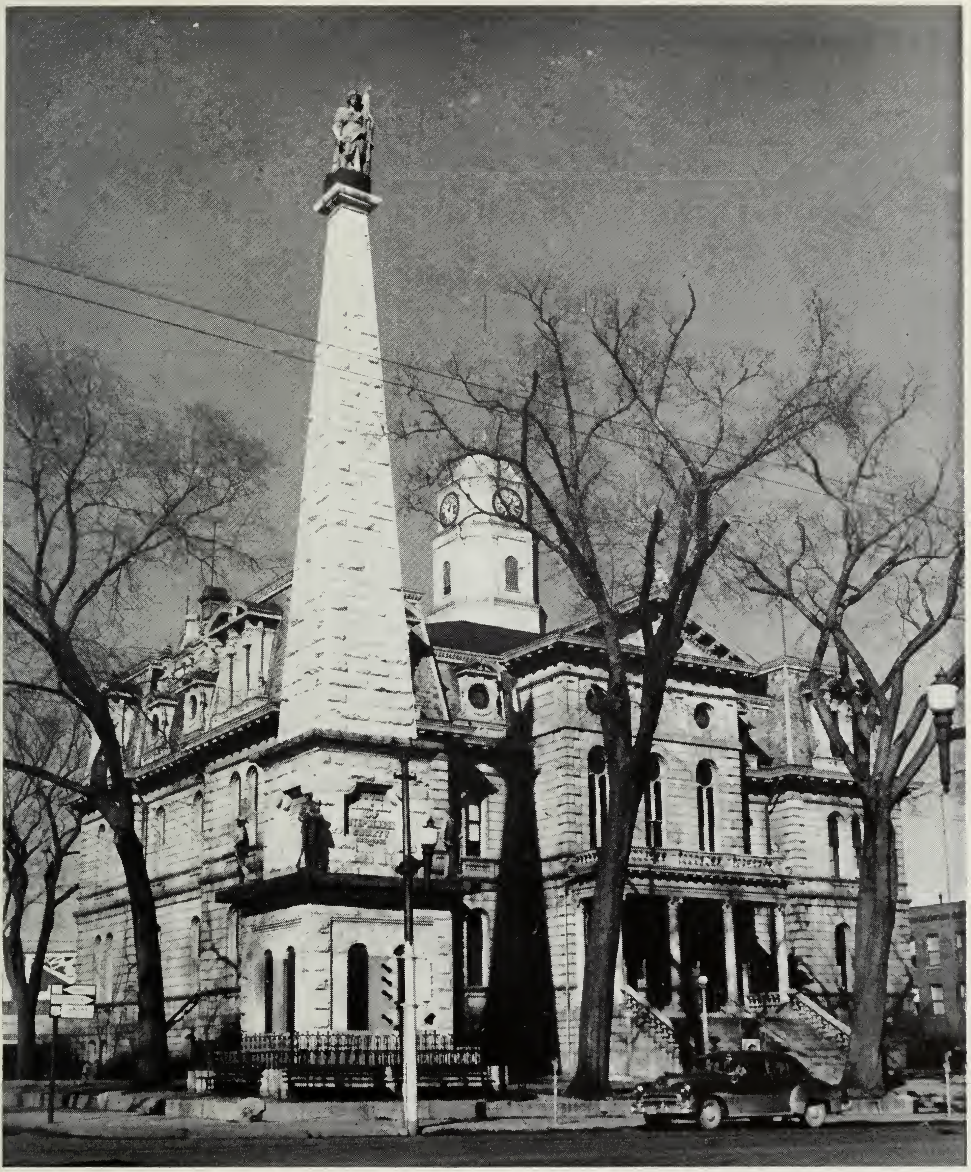
The monument to the Civil War soldiers, foreground in the picture, was built in 1869.

In 1870, the original courthouse was moved to make room for the present building, which cost $130,413.56, including equipment, and was dedicated in 1873.

In 1926, construction was begun on an east and a west wing. After excavation was begun for the basement and the cupola removed, construction was halted by an injunction of the circuit court, on petition filed by the local chamber of commerce. Excavations were refilled and the cupola replaced; and the building has remained, except for internal remodeling, as you see it in the picture.

Wesley A. Eberle

County Judge of Stephenson County



Stephenson County Courthouse

Stephenson County Jail

204 West Exchange Street

STEPHENSON County's first jail, Cherry and Exchange Streets, built in 1839 by Thomas J. Turner, was of logs. Before that, a few lawbreakers were imprisoned in William Baker's root house.

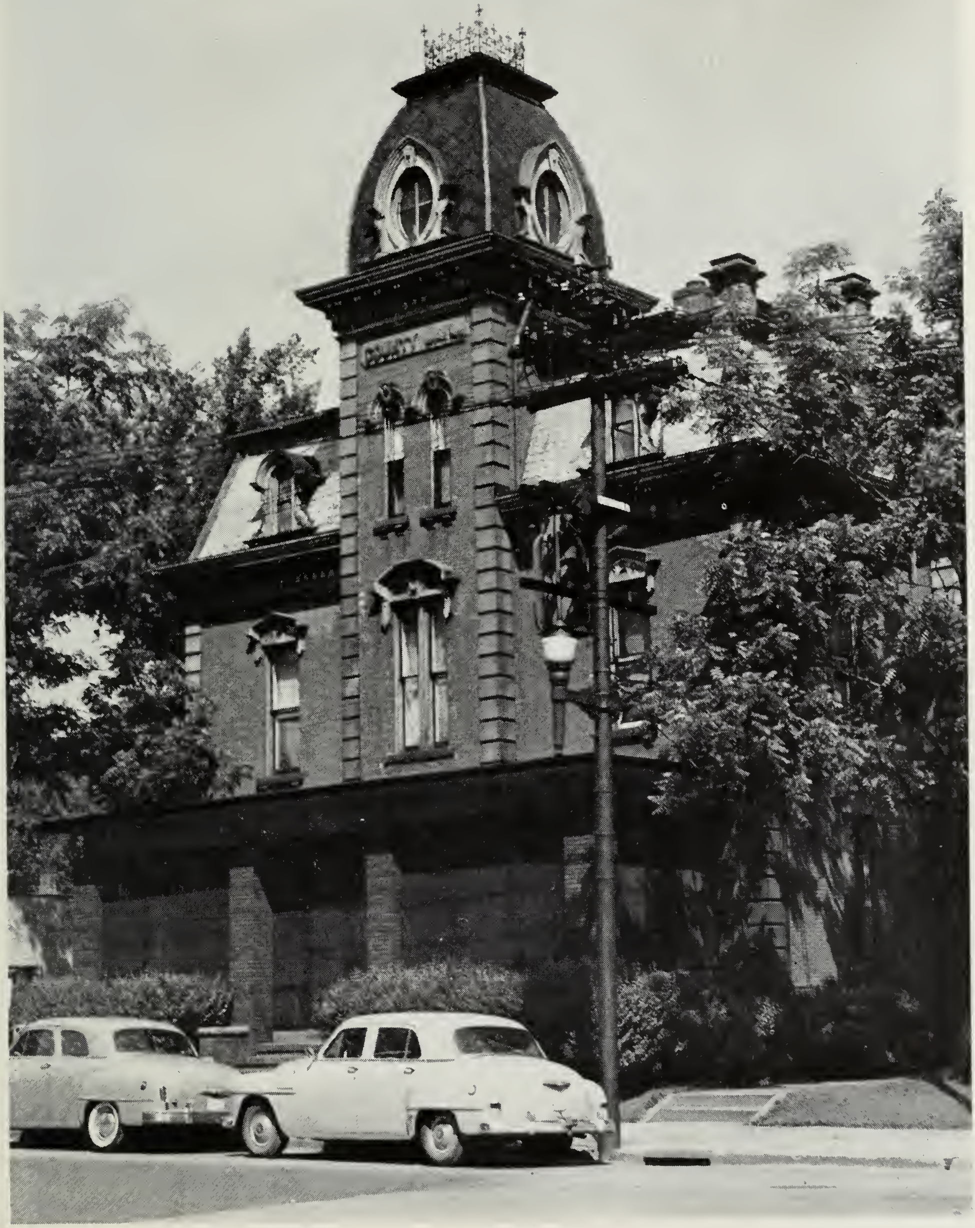
Jail breaks were common, and soon a jail was built just north of the present one. This was known as "The Little Stone Jug."

Because of a large jail break in 1875, the county board of supervisors decided to build a new jail. This is the one now being used, Exchange and Galena Streets. The total cost was $40,553.

This building, of brick and stone, contains the residence of the sheriff, besides the county jail. It consists of three floors and can accommodate 40 prisoners.

Recently changes have been made in the building to comply with regulations for housing federal prisoners—fireproofing, steel fireproof doors and the installation of an electrically-controlled door leading into the main floor cell block.

Harold V. Vore
Stephenson County Sheriff



Stephenson County Jail

Post Office

103 North Chicago Avenue

MAIL was first delivered in Freeport in 1836 by the Frink Stages to Thomas Crane, who delivered it on foot and collected the "tariff." In 1842, the mails were delivered by scheduled stages. First mail to reach Freeport by rail came over the Chicago and Northwestern Railway in 1853.

In 1837, the first post office was established, somewhere on what is now Main Street. From 1843 to 1849, it was located in a small storeroom corner Main and Van Buren Streets. It was later moved to the building at the corner of Stephenson and Chicago Streets, and in 1884 to the Wilcoxon building, at the rear of what is now the Second National building.

In 1903, it was moved into a new government building on the present site. This building was remodeled and enlarged in 1931-1932 and also houses the Federal Court.

The Freeport post office has 85 employees, and receipts are over $400,000 annually.

John C McKinstra

Freeport Postmaster

Post Office

Police Department

City Hall Building

According to an old city ordinance book, the first city marshal or police officer of Freeport was elected in 1855. From that time until 1883, when the police department was formed and the first chief of police appointed by the mayor, 14 different men held this office. Since 1883, 14 different men have served as chief of police.

Since 1899, when the present city hall building was erected, the police department has been housed there. Prior to that time it was housed in the old city hall building.

The present police department consists of 20 men—a chief, an assistant chief and three shifts of six men each. It is equipped with two squad cars, two motorcycles and a two-way radio system, plus the usual other equipment of guns, etc., necessary in any police department. The men work on three eight-hour shifts which, combined, cover the 24-hour period of a day.

W L Marsh

Chief of Police

Police Department

Fire Department
Station No. 1

City Hall Building

IN 1883, a paid fire department was established, with John Rodemeier as chief fire marshal. It was equipped with two hose carts, a hook and ladder, a splendid system of electric fire alarms and eight men.

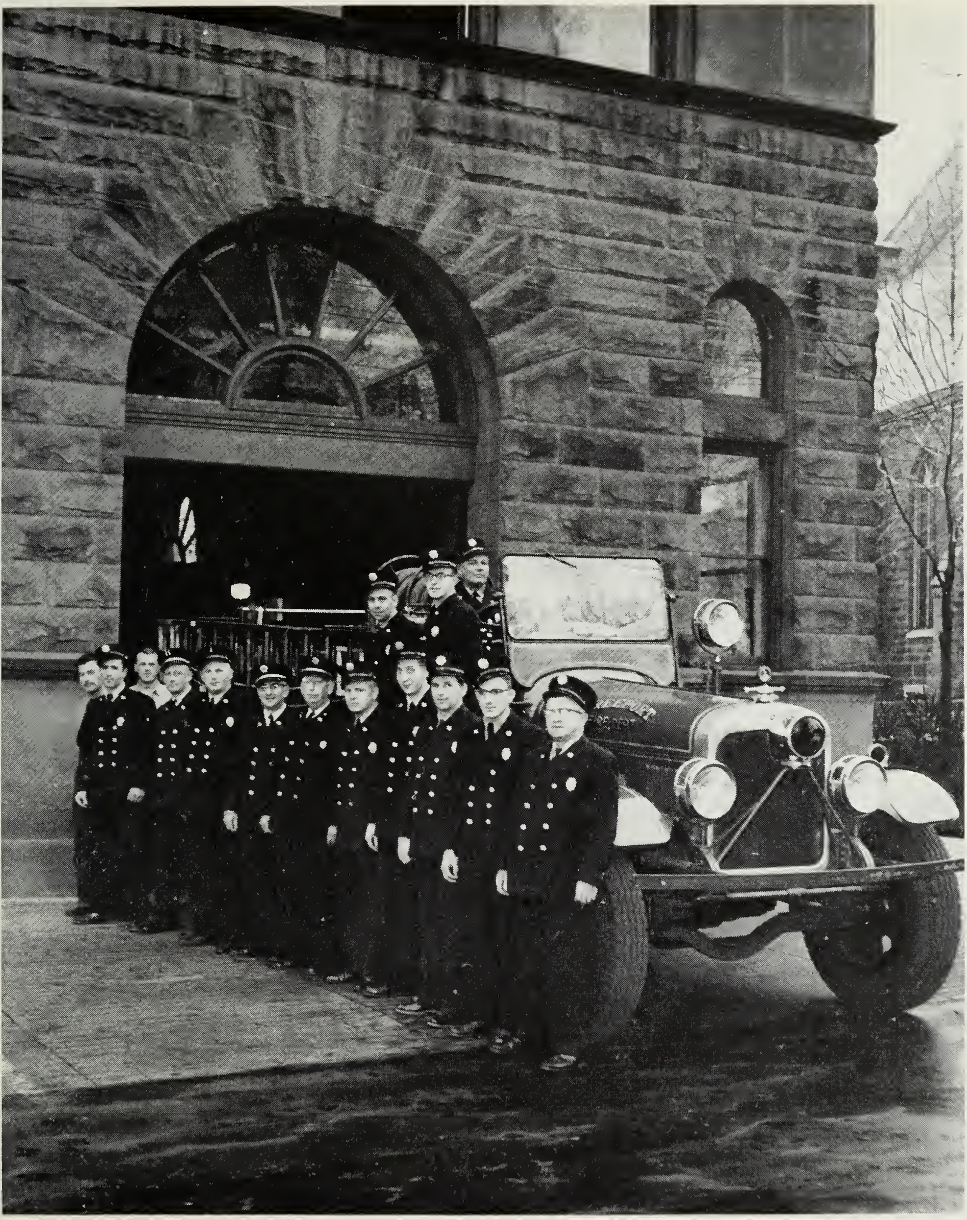
The fire department is now supervised by Chief Ray Pontius and Assistant Chief James Ryan and consists of 26 men.

The city hall, home of Station No. 1, was erected in 1899. This station is manned by two shifts of nine men each under the double platoon system. It has one 750 G.P.M. pumping engine and a 75-foot hydraulic aerial ladder combined with a 750 G.P.M. engine. Freeport Fire Protection District 500 G.P.M. engine is housed there and is subject to the city department's use when necessary.

The fire department has a rescue and salvage car, which is used also as an ambulance. This is a great asset to the department.

Albert L. Luedeke

Former Fire Chief



Fire Station No. 1

Fire Department Station No. 2

507 South Adams Avenue

FIRE Station No. 2, located in the Third Ward, was erected in 1892. It is two stories, with brick walls and wood interior.

The original equipment consisted of a reel hose cart pulled by two horses. The hose had to be wound up with a crank. The station was manned by four men.

On October 18, 1913, this station was motorized and the horses turned over to the city council for their disposal.

At the present time the equipment consists of a 1944 Seagrave 750 G.P.M. engine, with 1000 feet of 2½-inch hose, and various up-to-date fire extinguishers. The station is operated on two shifts: Lieutenant Alfred Washburn Jr. and Edward Sullivan on shift No. 1, and Captain Albin Franz and Robert Pontius on shift No. 2.

This station provides fire protection for a thickly populated section of the city.

James S. Ryan

Former Captain, Fire Station No. 2

Fire Station No. 2

Fire Department
Station No. 3

1003 West Lincoln Boulevard

DID YOU know that because the residents of West Freeport wished to become a part of the city of Freeport, Fire Station No. 3 was erected in 1911? The building of a fire station was one of their conditions in regard to annexation.

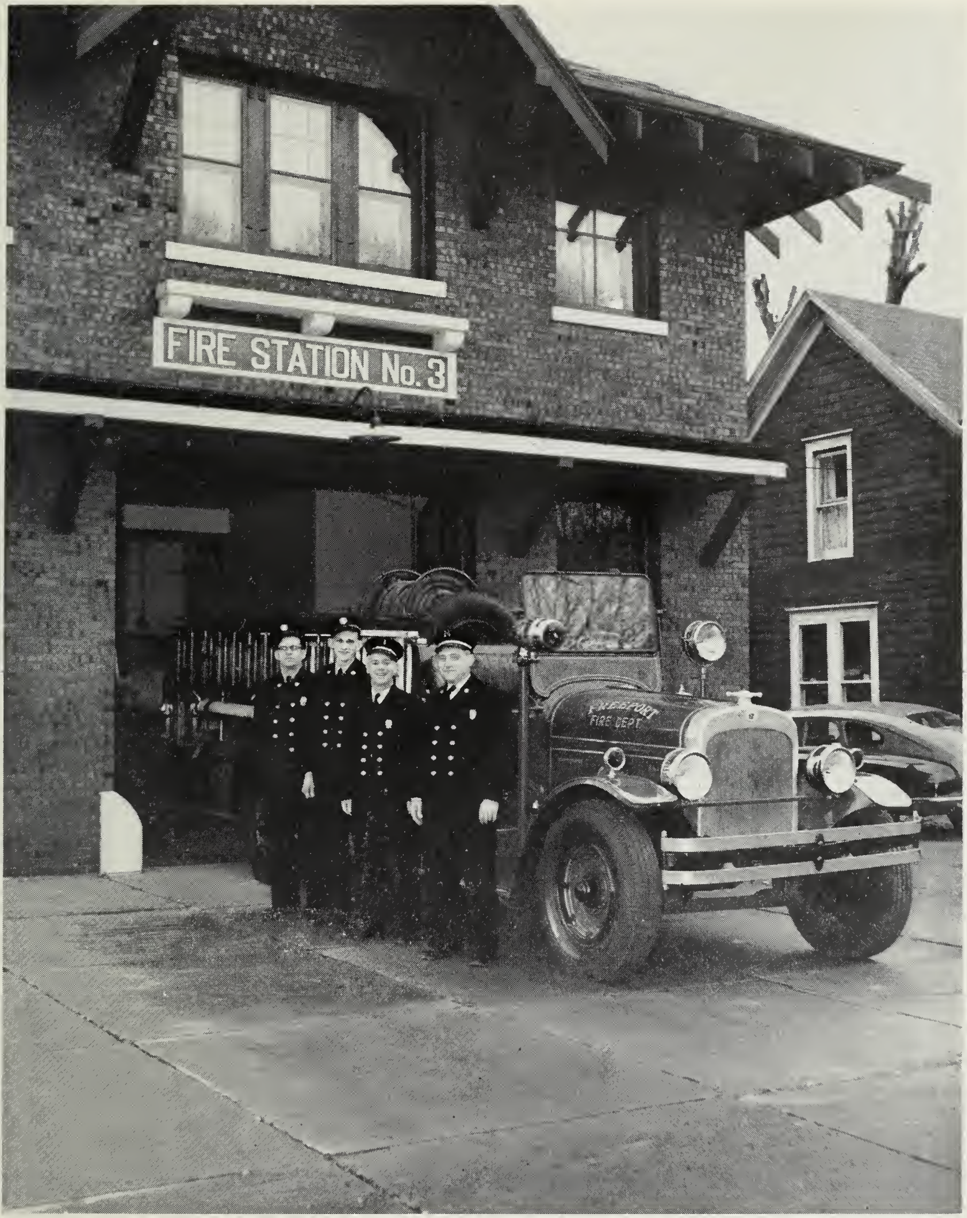
The building illustrated is the original one. A horse-drawn hose and chemical wagon provided the first fire-fighting equipment. In 1919, the motorized truck replaced the horse-drawn fire wagon.

The fast growing west end of Freeport in future years fully justified erection of No. 3 Fire Station. The territory protected by this station extends westward from Walnut Avenue to Globe Avenue. In this area are found churches, schools, a hospital and hundreds of beautiful homes.

Men and equipment from Station No. 3 are usually sent to the central fire station immediately after a fire calls out the equipment from No. 1 Station.

Earl R. Young.

Captain, Fire Station No. 3


FIRE STATION No. 3
FREEPORT
FIRE DEPT.

Fire Station No. 3

First National Bank

101 West Stephenson Street

THE First National Bank of Freeport was organized February 24, 1864, with George F. DeForest as president and Esrom Mayer as cashier. A statement of condition on October 3, 1864 showed total resources of $228,496.96.

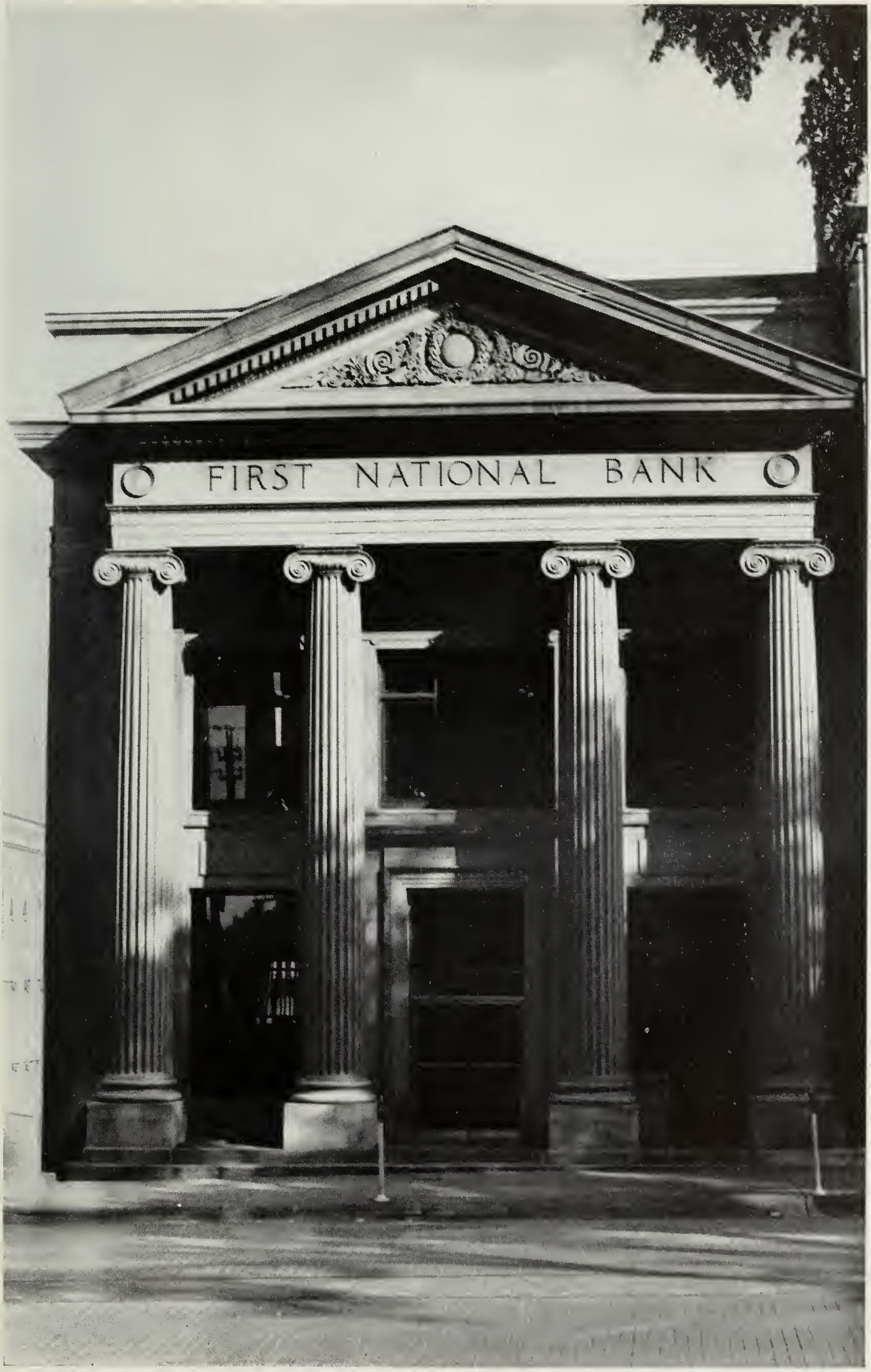
Mr. O. B. Bidwell, one of the organizers, became president in 1870 and held that position until his death in 1909.

The bank was reorganized in 1933. It has continued to have a normal, healthy growth.

Operations have been conducted at the present location since organization. The quarters have been enlarged and improved at intervals through the years, and during the past year the banking room has been rearranged and improved to take care of an increase in all branches of the business.

The June 30, 1954 statement showed resources of $15,600,724.56

President, First National Bank


FIRST NATIONAL BANK

State Bank of Freeport

27 East Stephenson Street

THE State Bank of Freeport opened for business August 1, 1891, at the corner of Stephenson Street and Van Buren Avenue, diagonally across from the courthouse.

D. C. Stover was the first president, and H. H. Antrim was its first cashier. Mr. Stover served several years and was succeeded as president by R. G. Shumway of Polo. Fred Dorman, one of the organizers of the bank, followed Mr. Shumway in the presidency, and he in turn was succeeded by H. H. Antrim. J. Fred Smith was the next president, and upon his retirement Walter C. Pfender was elected to the presidency in January 1953.

The present building, erected at a cost of approximately $200,000.00, was occupied August 1, 1917.

The State Bank of Freeport has been continously serving the Freeport area for 63 years and is considered one of the oldest and strongest financial institutions in Northern Illinois.

Walter. C Pfender

President, State Bank of Freeport

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION
STATE BANK

Country Club

Park Boulevard

THE Freeport Country Club originated by combining two early social organizations, the Freeport Club (1890), headquarters in what is now the Y.W.C.A., and the Lakota Club (1908), located in Schofield's Park. In 1911, 80 acres were purchased west of Globe Avenue, a five-hole golf course established, and a tent set up for a clubhouse. In 1912-1913, a permanent clubhouse was erected and the course expanded to nine holes. In the early twenties, 40 more acres were purchased, a full 18-hole course put in operation, and the clubhouse expanded to its present size.

The clubhouse, with its spacious ballroom, screened porches, studio dining room, its facilities for the golfers, provides a pleasant setting for gay parties and family gatherings. The golf course—an interesting variety of holes, its deep gullies, its winding creek, its rolling terrain—presents a real test of skill and grand entertainment for all who challenge it.

Past President, Freeport Country Club

Country Club

Freeport, Illinois

IT IS over a century since Freeport was founded. During the past two years more special buildings for offices have been erected than any two years in its history.

The majority of these have been insurance buildings, erected by Freeport men who have established businesses which have grown to phenomenal proportions. Freeport has become known as the Hartford of the Central West.

The new Rawleigh office building is also outstanding. It was erected by an industry established in Freeport which now operates factories in four countries.

Besides insurance, Freeport has become known throughout the United States and many other countries of the world for the manufacture of proprietary preparations, pumps and windmills, toys, Diesel engines and motors, caskets and burial vaults, funeral cars and ambulances, micro switches, electric batteries, cellulose products, curtain rods, paper boxes, dairy and bakery products, machine tools, water softeners, and for millwork, printing, electroplating and the making of vinegar.

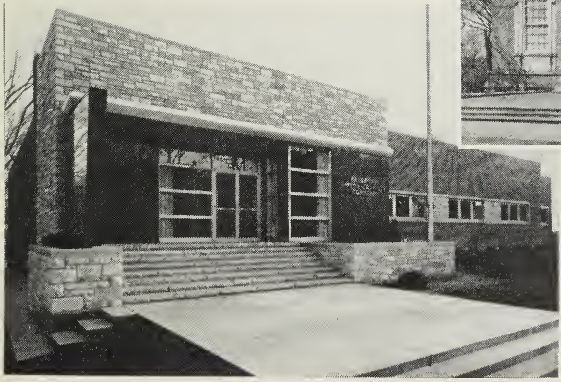
Manager, Freeport Chamber of Commerce

Western States Mutual Auto Insurance Co.

The W. T. Rawleigh Company Offices

Economy Fire & Casualty Co.

Crum & Forster



Freeport Motor Casualty Co.

CHAPTER VII

CAMERA STUDIES

FREEPORT CULTURAL BUILDINGS

Freeport citizens are proud of their cultural institutions, which they have sponsored and supported for many years.

Public Library

314 West Stephenson Street

FREEPORT'S Public Library started October 14, 1874, when Miss Winifred Taylor persuaded the Y.M.C.A. to give space for a library.

A library society struggled along until 1890, when the city fathers took over and provided a yearly tax and a paid librarian. In 1900, Andrew Carnegie gave $30,000 for a library building in Freeport. Generous citizens contributed the balance of the $40,000 cost. The new building opened September 4, 1902.

General Smith D. Atkins was the first president of the library board. I was the first librarian and continued as librarian until 1918, when I resigned to serve the Federal Government. Miss Ruth Hughes served as librarian from 1918 until her resignation in 1949.

The Library serves the hospitals, the schools and the public and is a potent force for good in the community. A valued possession of the Library is a collection of paintings of early local scenes by Mrs. Stella M. Perkins.

Harriet Lane

Retired Librarian

Public Library

Stephenson County Historical Museum

1440 South Carroll Avenue

THE Stephenson County Historical Society was organized in 1944. The Taylor family gave the former Oscar Taylor mansion at 1440 South Carroll Avenue to be used as a museum, which the Society maintains in this fine old home.

Oscar Taylor, an early merchant and banker in Freeport, built the large stone house in 1857 and planted the beautiful grounds with a large collection of rare trees. He named the estate "Bohemiana," which was then at the south edge of the small growing city of Freeport.

This property was deeded to the park board in 1953, and the three acres of grounds are now maintained as a park.

The Stephenson County Historical Society maintains the museum, which has a collection of historical items of local interest, a collection of fine Indian handicraft, a collection of rare fans, as well as numerous antiques. The Museum is one of the oldest buildings in Freeport still standing.

Philip L. Keister

Freeport Attorney and Secretary,
Stephenson County Historical Society

Stephenson County Historical Museum

Winneshiek Theatre

228 West Clark Street

ON April 28, 1916, "Arms and the Man" was given by local talent in the Orpheum Theatre, as a benefit for the Associated Charities of Freeport.

Those who participated in this production organized and gave performances for their membership only, and a few for the public. During World War I meetings were discontinued, but resumed in 1926.

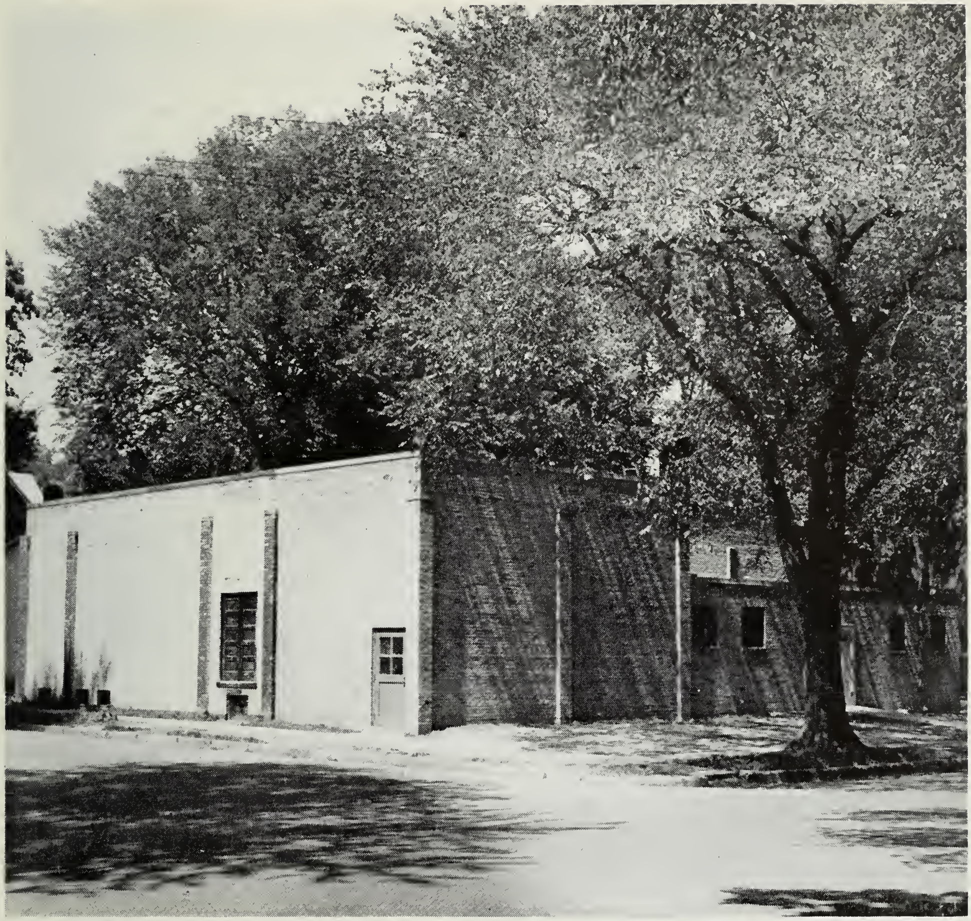
The third floor in the Emmert building was rented and became known as "The Bandbox." That was soon outgrown, and more commodious quarters, known as "The Loft," on the third floor of the First National Bank building were procured. Soon they, too, became unsuitable, and, encouraged by public interest in their cultural enterprise and by a gift of land and money, the membership solicited funds, and, in 1936, the Winneshiek Theatre became a reality.

In 1954, the theatre was enlarged, at a cost of over $10,000, by the addition of a foyer, larger backstage and basement storage.

Active and associate membership in the Winneshiek Players is about 900.

Vera M. Scott

Active Member Winneshiek Players



Winneshiek Theatre

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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My appreciative thanks to all who helped in this book, and particularly to

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Robert H Koenig

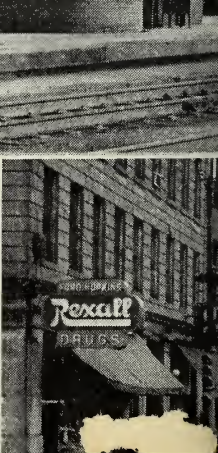
Camera Studies
of
Freeport
Illinois
Knock on Our Door
The Koenig Album

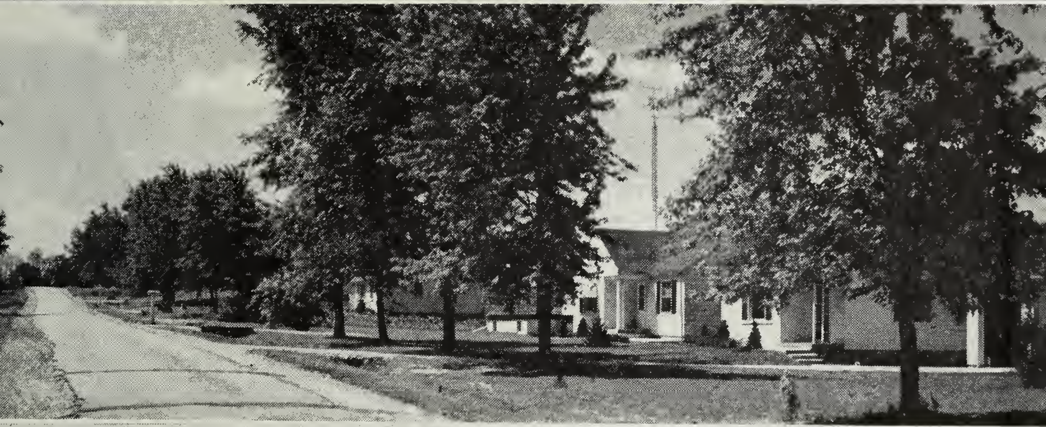
God bless us every one.

—*Dickens' "Christmas Carol"*

Rexall
KAHL

FREEPORT
ILLINOIS CENTRAL
CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN
PASSENGER STATION


Rexall
DRUGS



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